

ANNUAL



MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

25¢

72 BIG PAGES

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE



IND.

STRANGE

TALES

ANNUAL

#2  
1963

THE AMAZING  
SPIDER-  
MAN

FACE-TO-FACE  
WITH...

THE  
HUMAN  
TORCH

THIS  
LONG-AWAITED  
EPIC-  
LENGTH  
THRILLER  
IS ONLY  
ONE OF THE  
MANY  
WONDERFUL  
FEATURES  
WITHIN  
THESE  
UNFORGETTABLE  
PAGES!

THE MARVEL  
COMICS GROUP  
USHERS IN  
THE  
MARVEL AGE  
OF  
COMICS!



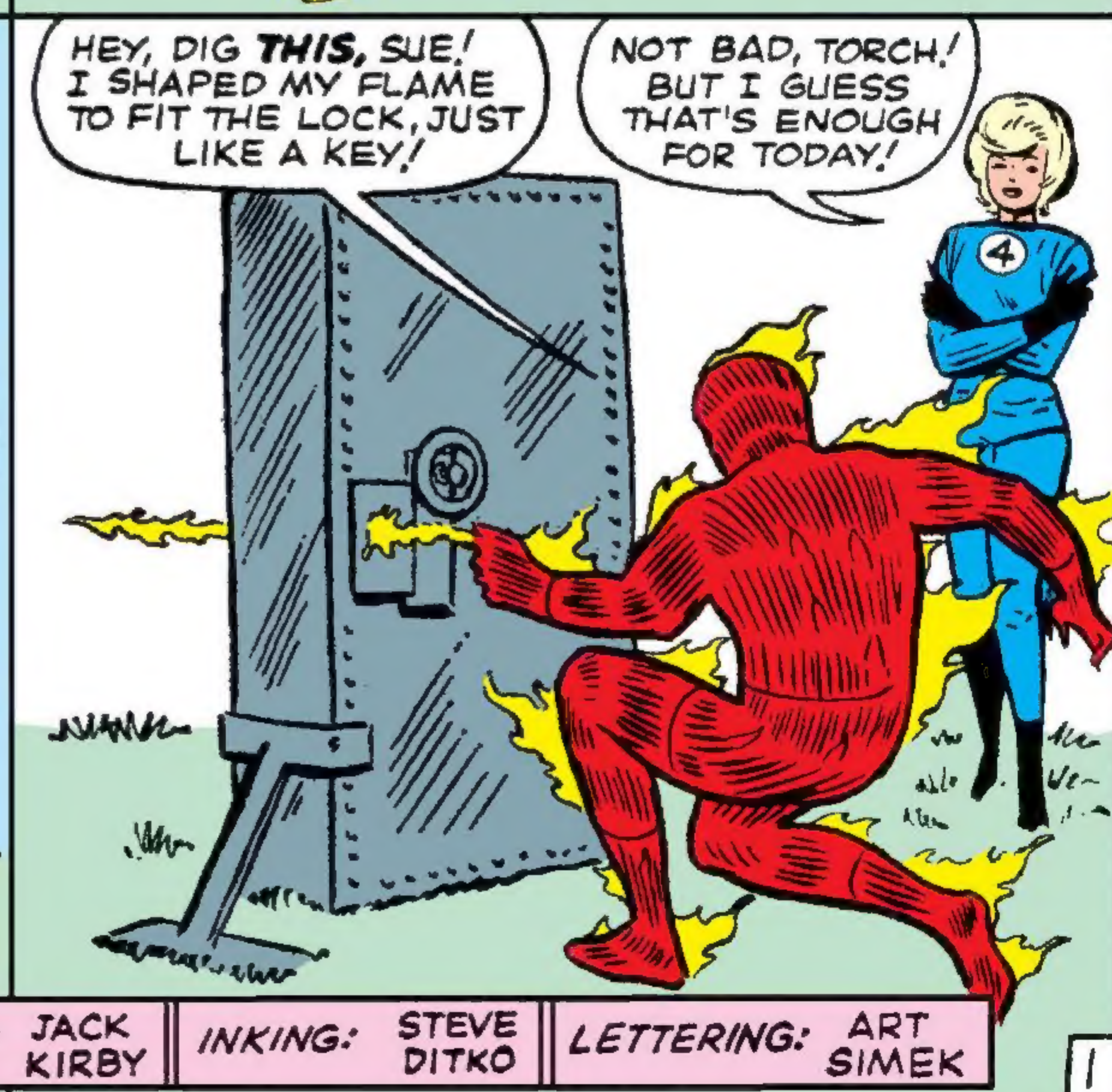
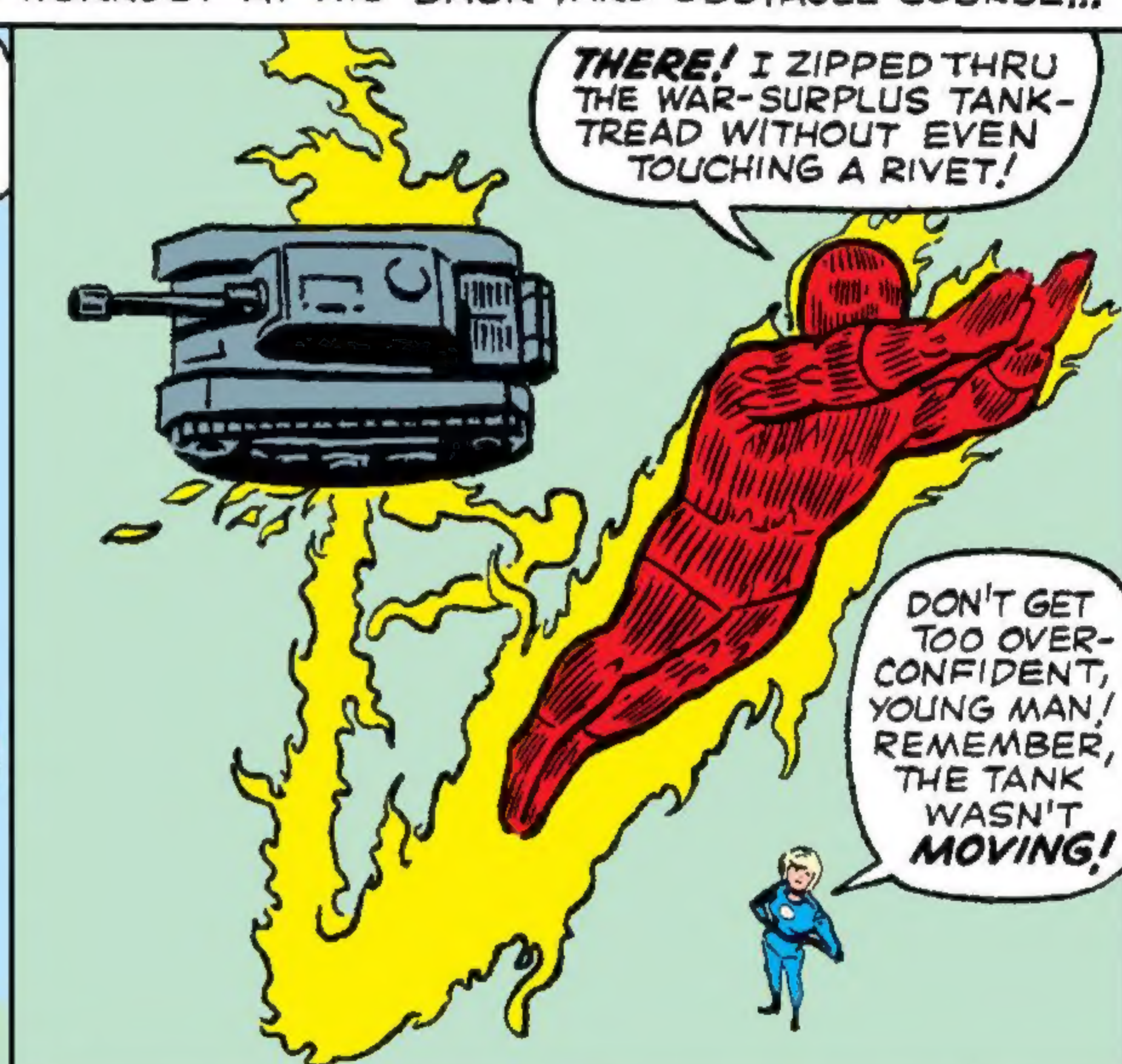
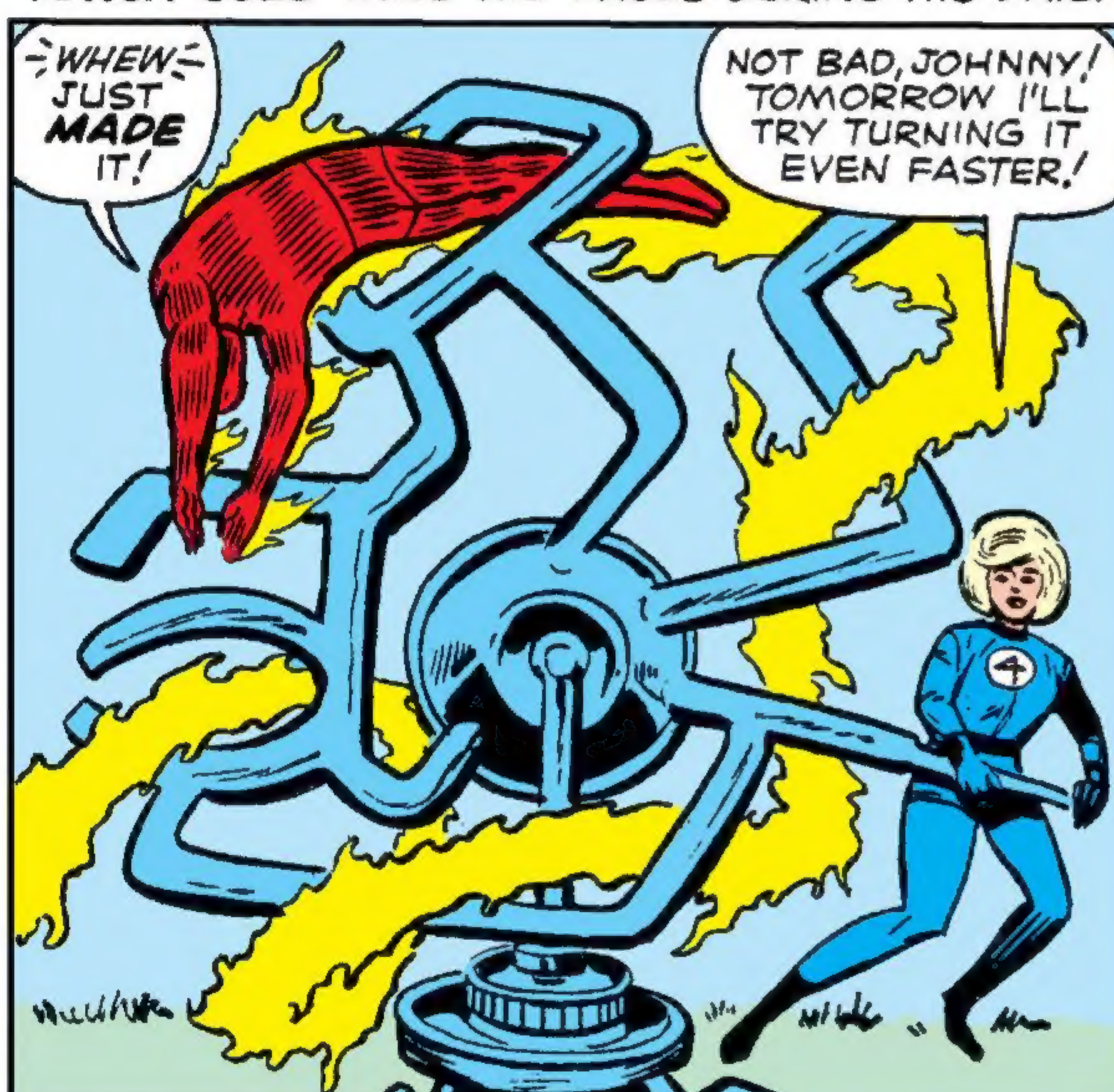


STRANGE TALES ANNUAL PRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST  
EPIC THRILLERS OF ALL TIME!! THE DAZZLING

# HUMAN TORCH,

## ON THE TRAIL OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

AIDED BY HIS SISTER, SUE STORM (KNOWN PROFESSIONALLY AS **THE INVISIBLE GIRL**), THE **HUMAN TORCH** GOES THRU HIS PACES DURING HIS DAILY WORKOUT AT HIS BACK YARD OBSTACLE COURSE...



WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE

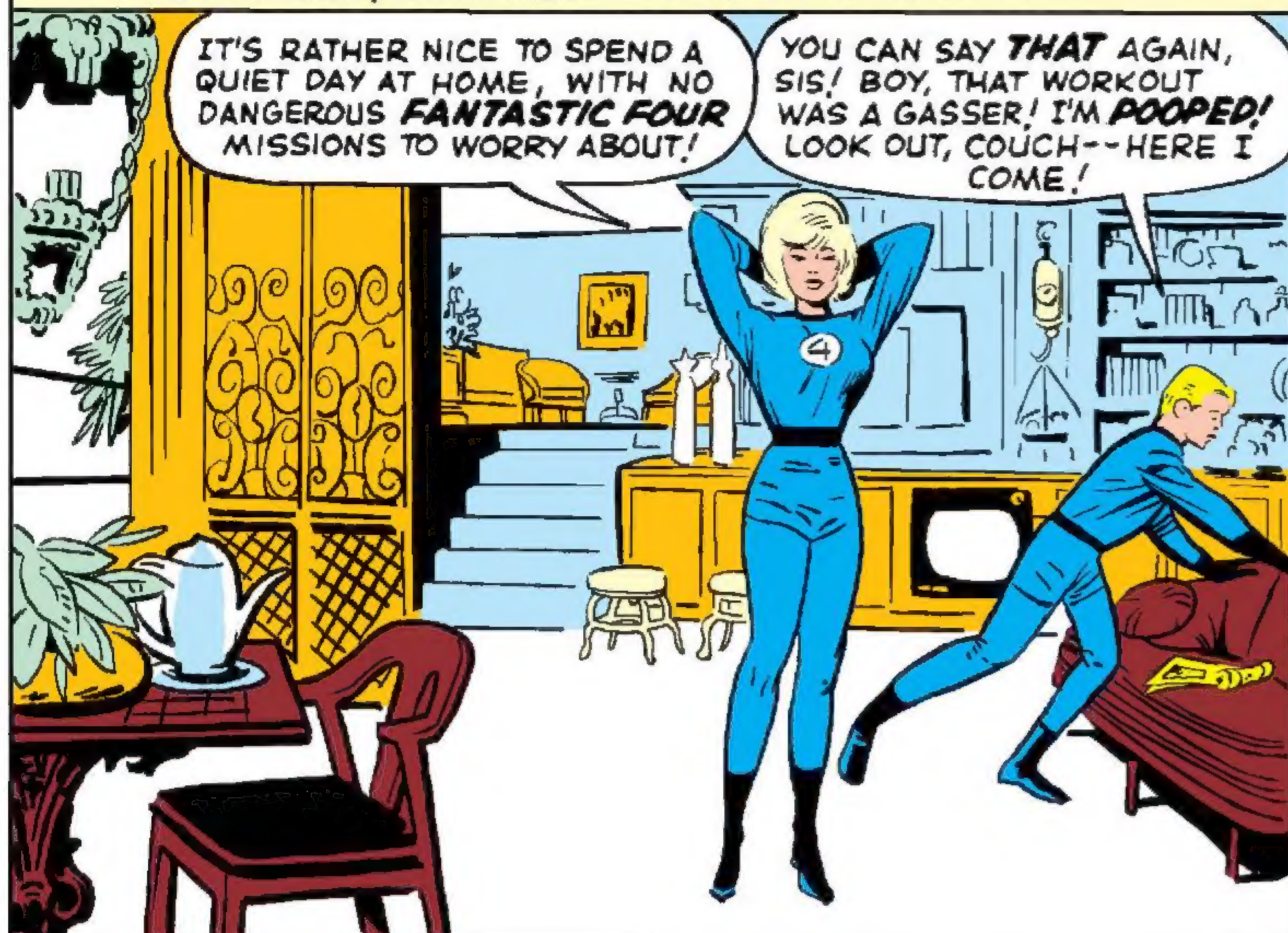
DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY

INKING: STEVE DITKO

LETTERING: ART SIMEK



RETURNING TO THE LIVING-DINING AREA OF THEIR MODERN SPLIT-LEVEL HOME IN GLENVILLE, LONG ISLAND, THE TORCH AND HIS SISTER PREPARE FOR A LAZY, LEISURELY SATURDAY AFTERNOON...



IT'S RATHER NICE TO SPEND A QUIET DAY AT HOME, WITH NO DANGEROUS **FANTASTIC FOUR** MISSIONS TO WORRY ABOUT!

YOU CAN SAY **THAT** AGAIN, SIS! BOY, THAT WORKOUT WAS A GASSER! I'M **POOPED**! LOOK OUT, COUCH--HERE I COME!

**FLAMIN' FIREBALLS!** LOOKA **THIS!**

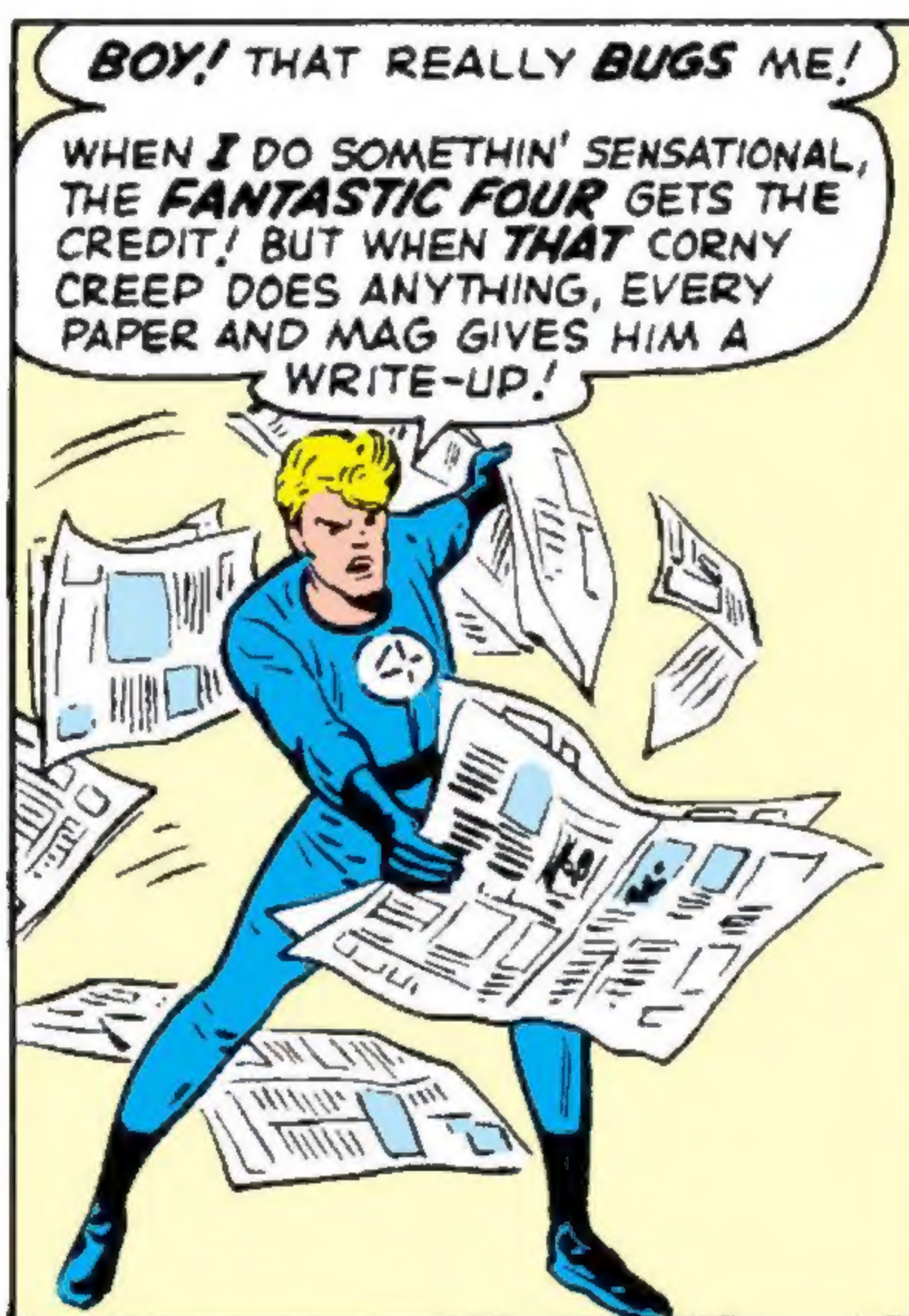


ALMOST THE WHOLE BLAMED ISSUE OF **LIVE** IS DEVOTED TO THAT SWELL-HEADED **SPIDER-MAN**!



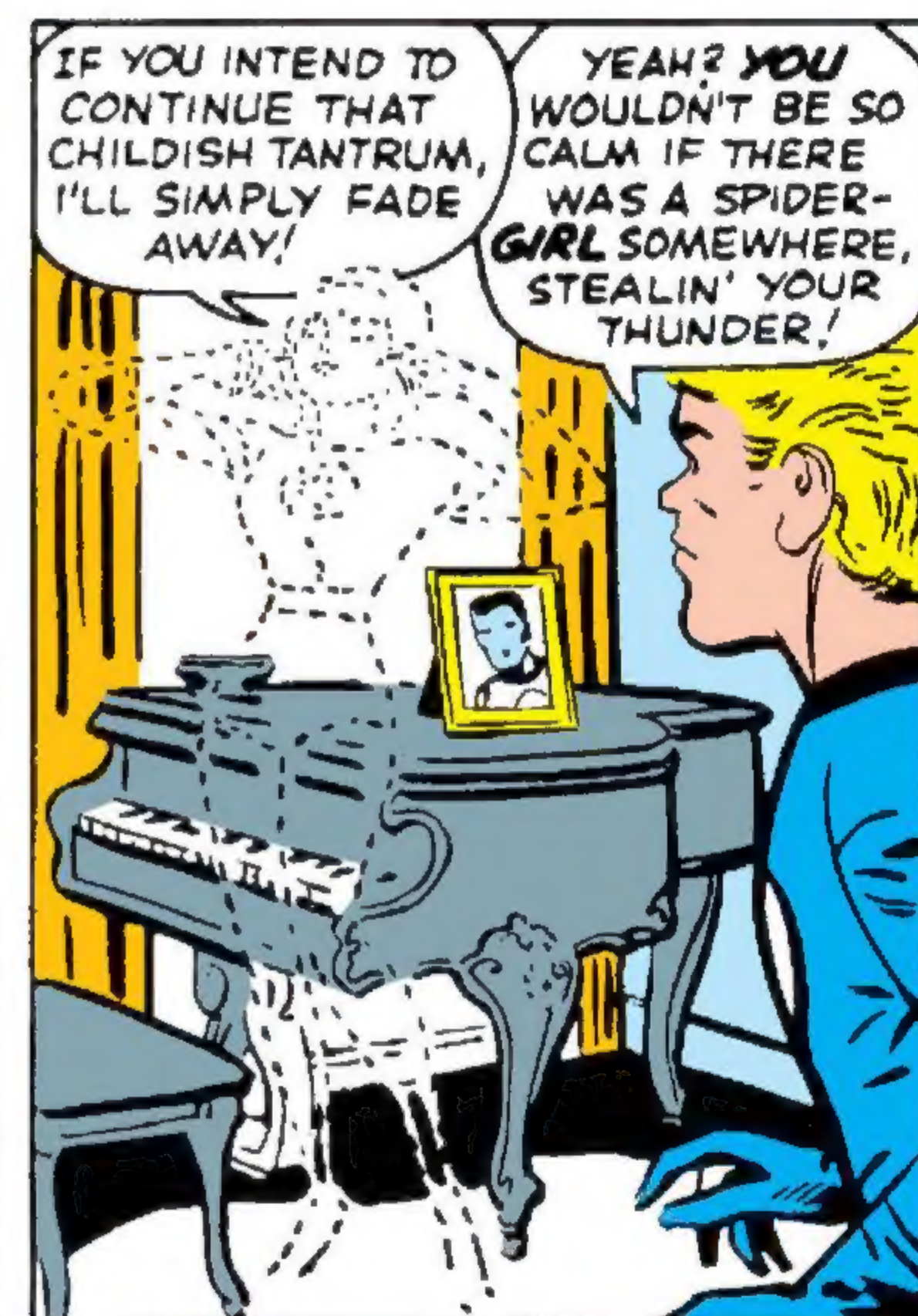
WHERE DOES **HE** COME OFF GETTIN' ALL THAT PUBLICITY?? WHAT CAN **HE** DO THAT **I** CAN'T DO **BETTER??**

WELL, HE CAN GET MORE **HEADLINES**, FOR ONE THING!



**BOY!** THAT REALLY **BUGS** ME!

WHEN **I** DO SOMETHIN' SENSATIONAL, THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** GETS THE CREDIT! BUT WHEN **THAT** CORNY CREEP DOES ANYTHING, EVERY PAPER AND MAG GIVES HIM A WRITE-UP!

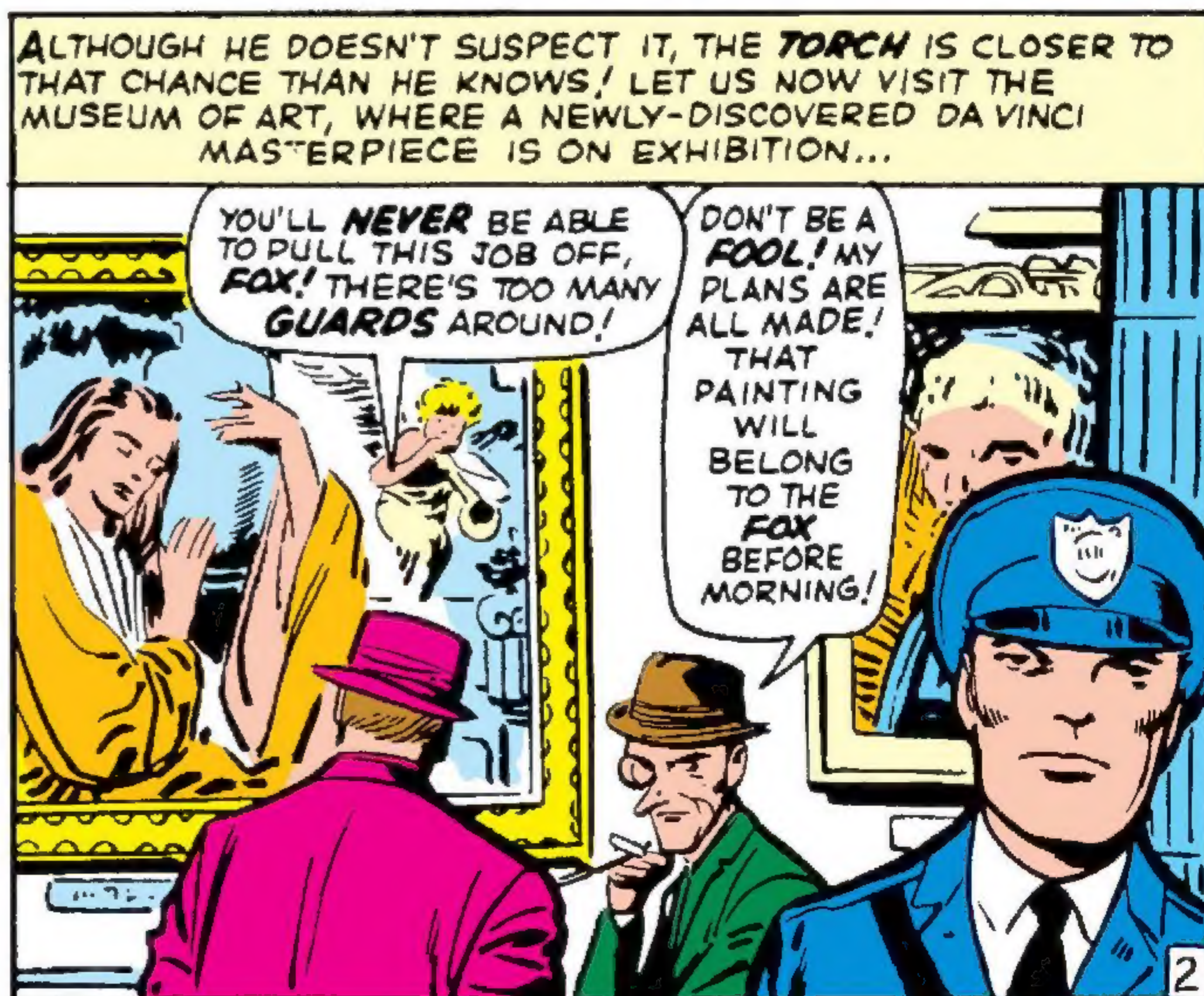


IF YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE THAT CHILDISH TANTRUM, I'LL SIMPLY FADE AWAY!

YEAH? **YOU** WOULDN'T BE SO CALM IF THERE WAS A **SPIDER-GIRL** SOMEWHERE, STEALIN' YOUR THUNDER!



EVERY TIME I PICK UP A PAPER, IT'S "**SPIDER-MAN THIS--**" AND "**SPIDER-MAN THAT--**"!! BOY, THAT GUY MAKES ME **SIZZLE**! I'D GIVE **ANYTHING** FOR A CHANCE TO PROVE HE AINT SO HOT!

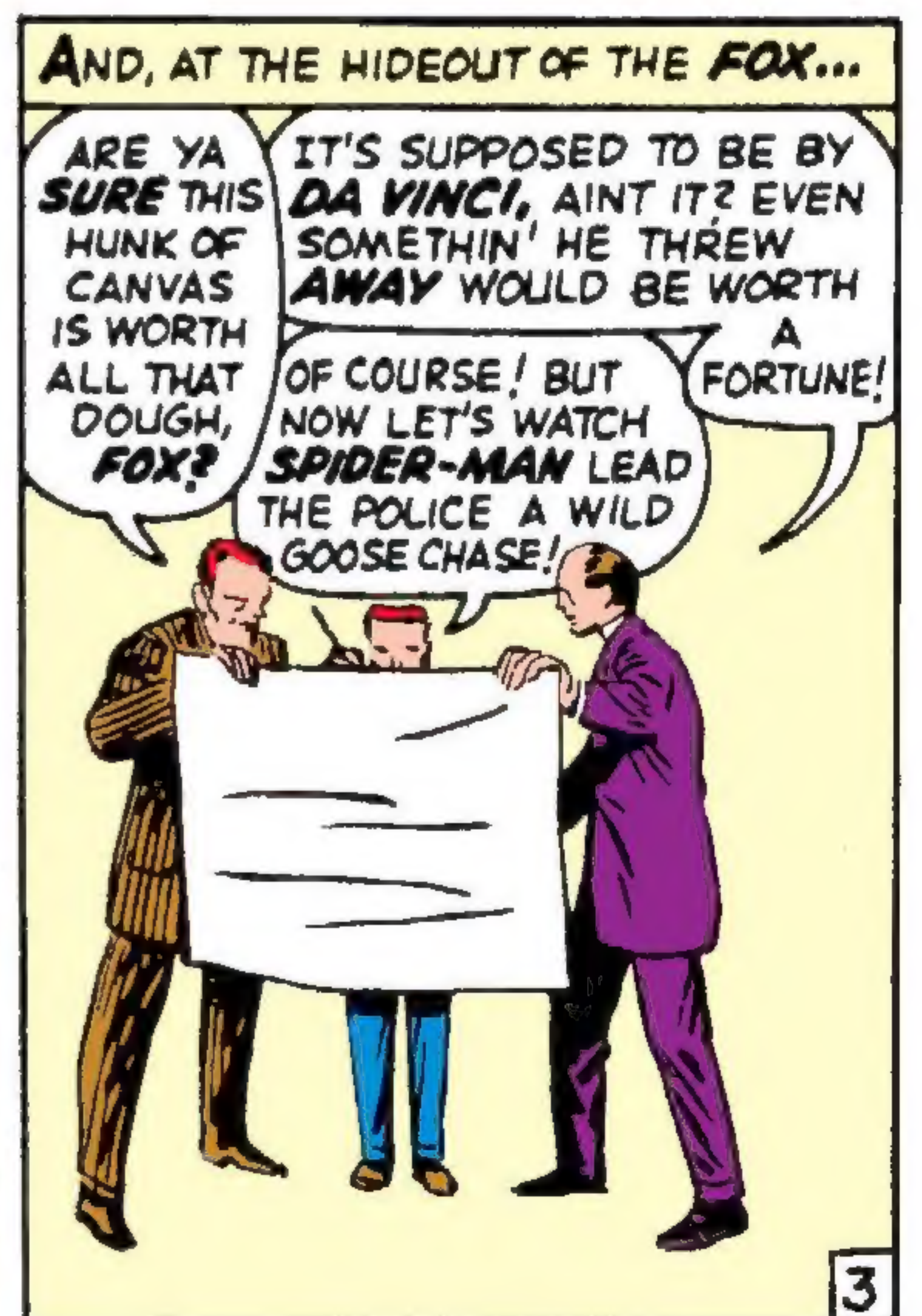
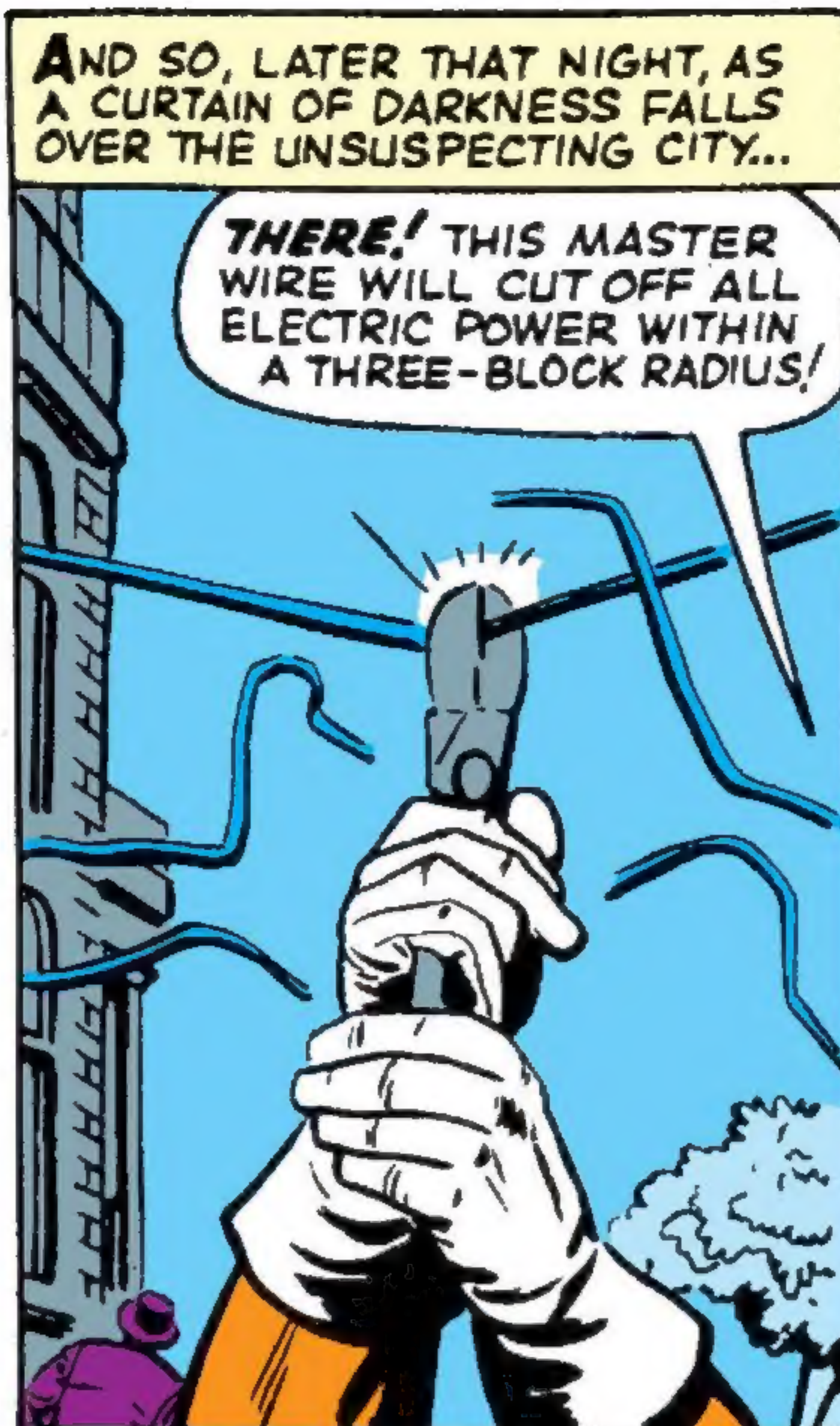


ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T SUSPECT IT, THE **TORCH** IS CLOSER TO THAT CHANCE THAN HE KNOWS! LET US NOW VISIT THE MUSEUM OF ART, WHERE A NEWLY-DISCOVERED **DA VINCI** MASTERPIECE IS ON EXHIBITION...

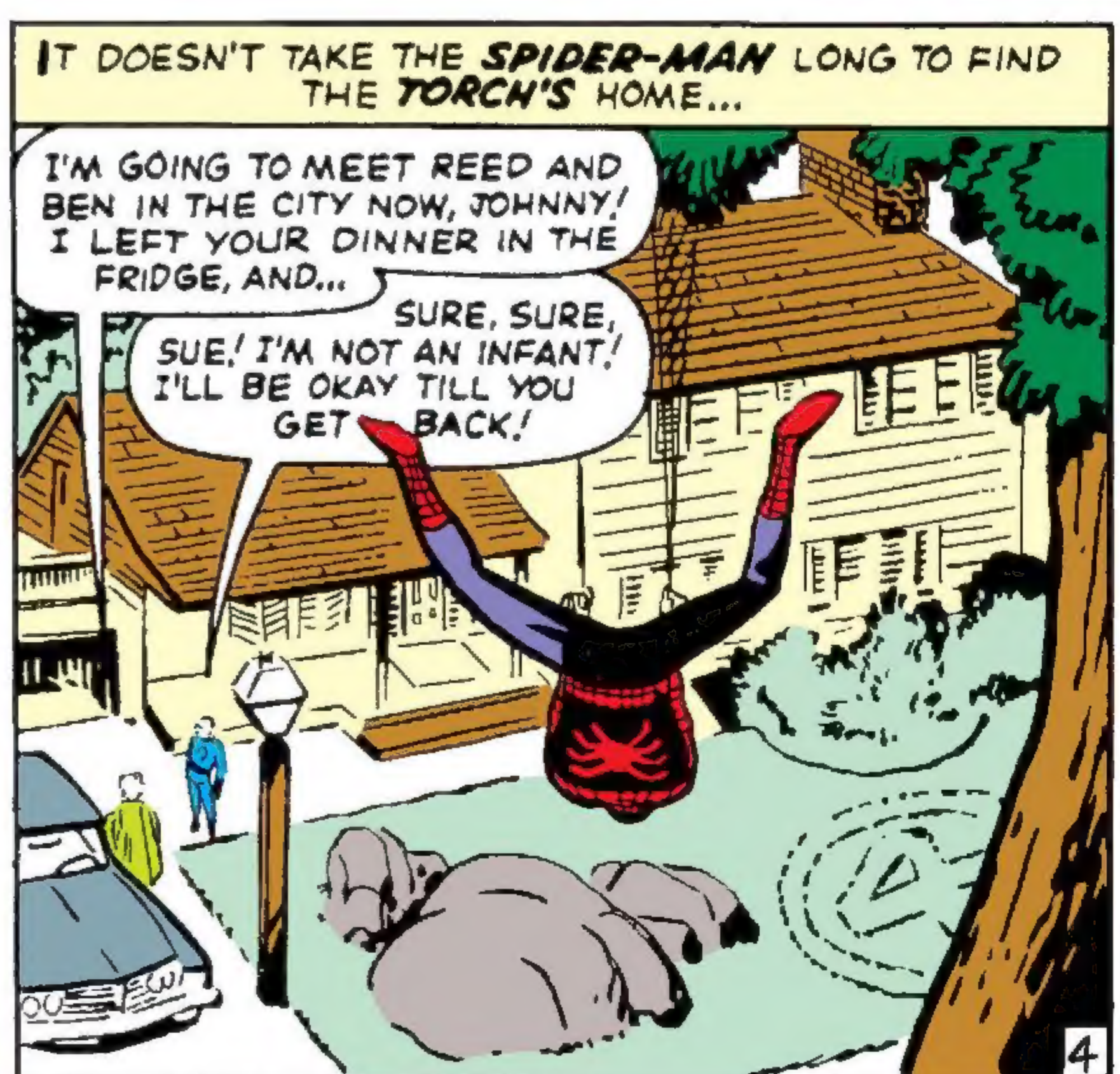
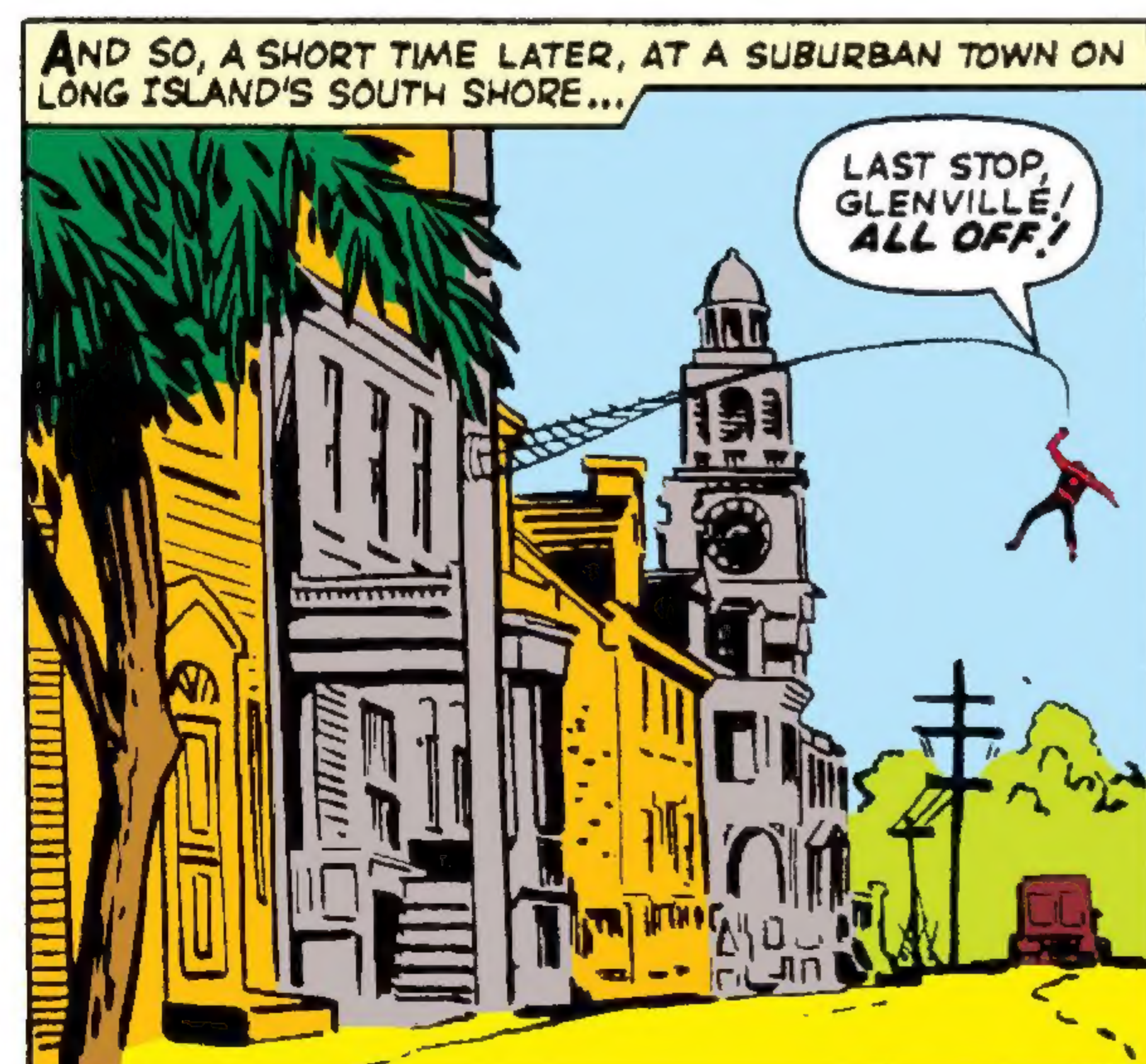
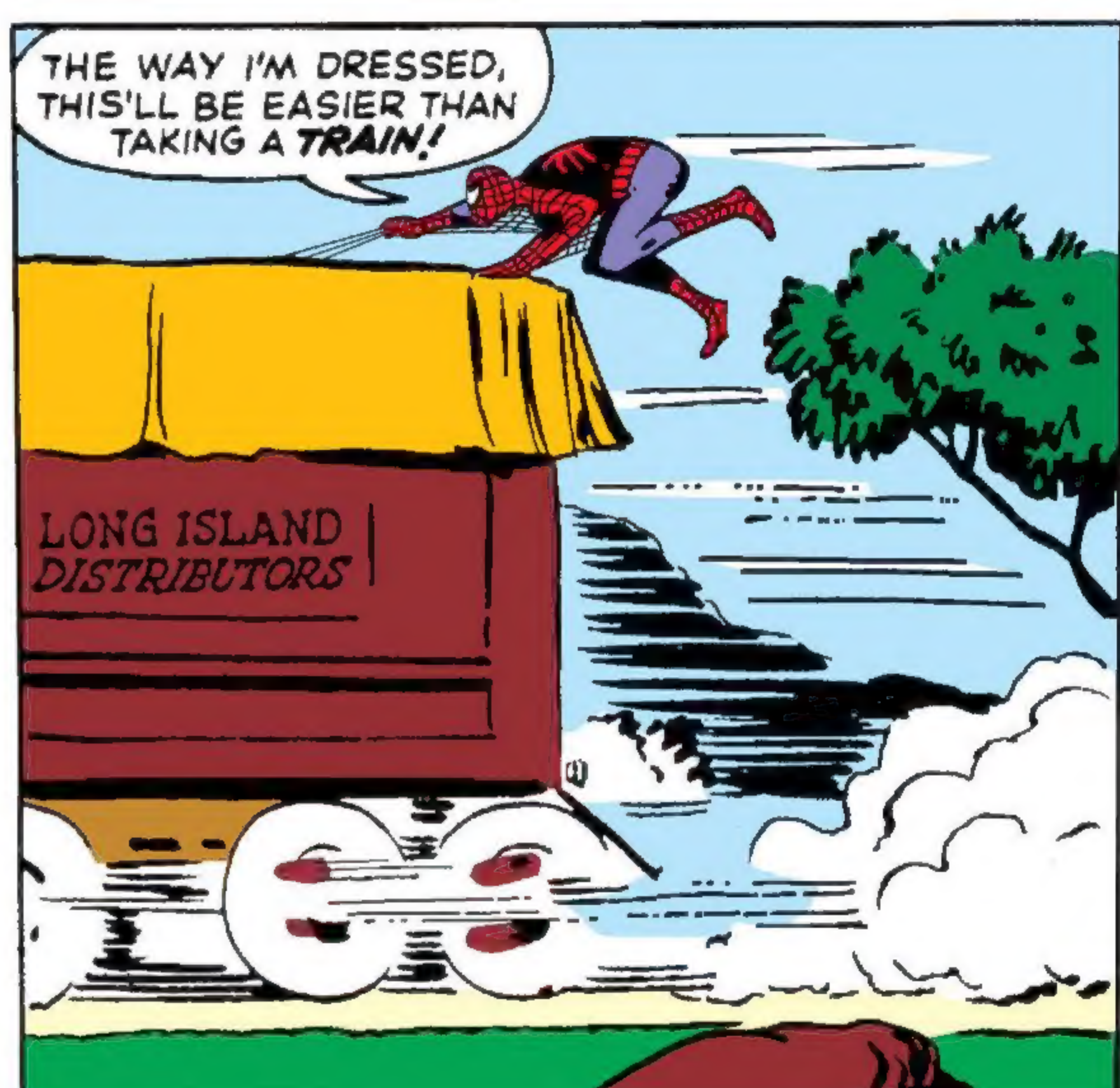
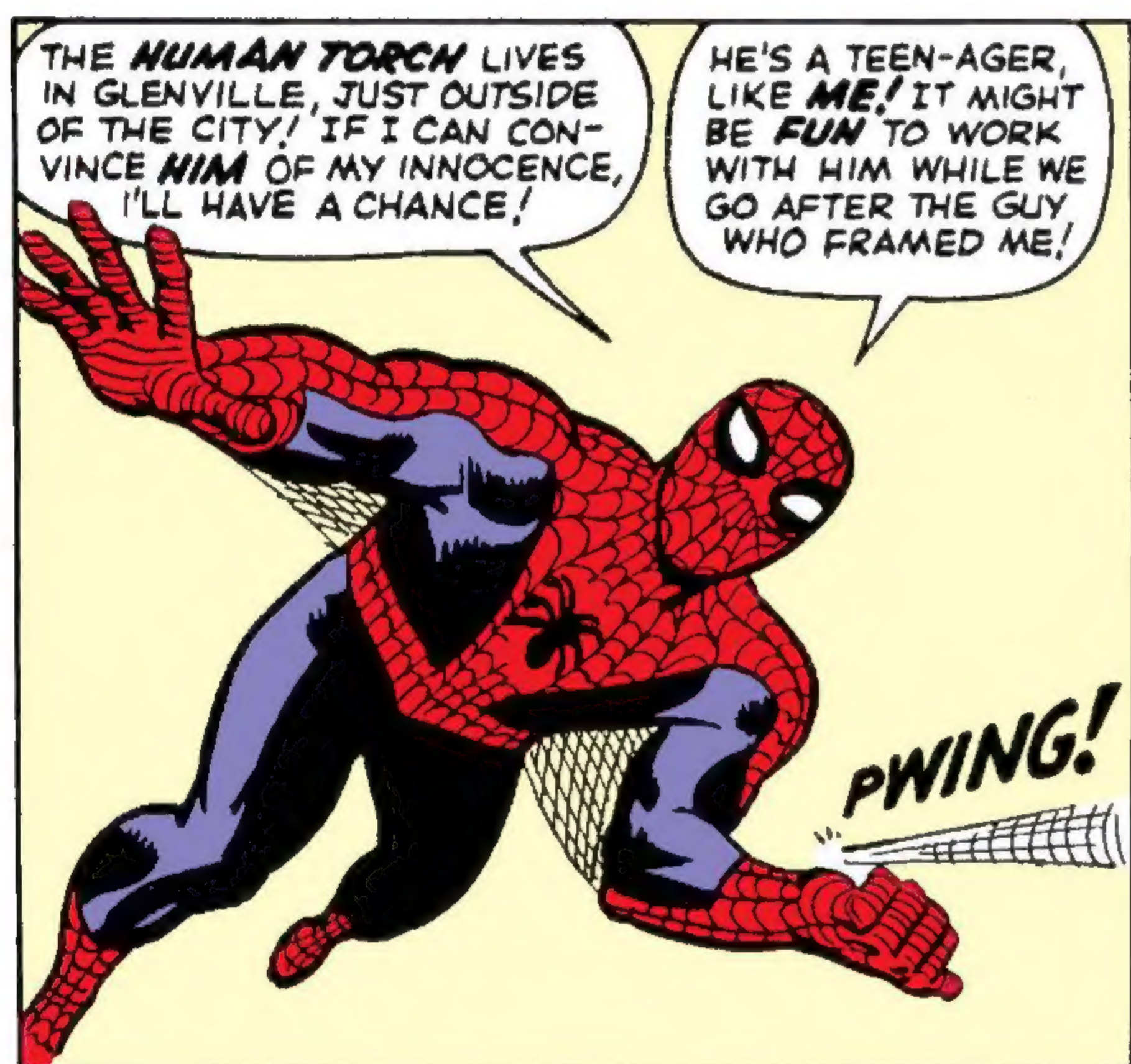
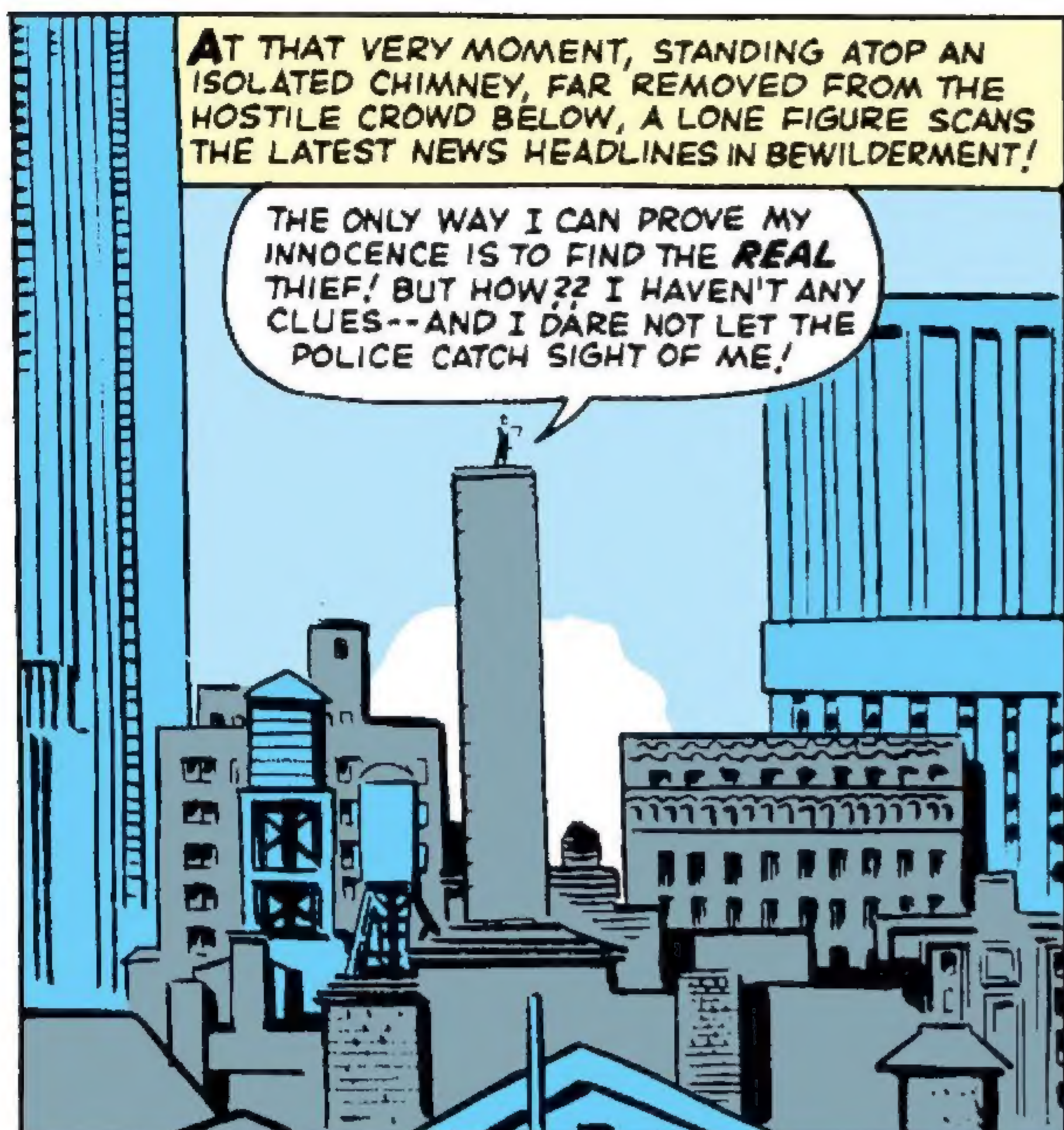
YOU'LL **NEVER** BE ABLE TO PULL THIS JOB OFF, **FOX**! THERE'S TOO MANY **GUARDS** AROUND!

DON'T BE A **FOOL**! MY PLANS ARE ALL MADE! THAT PAINTING WILL BELONG TO THE **FOX** BEFORE MORNING!

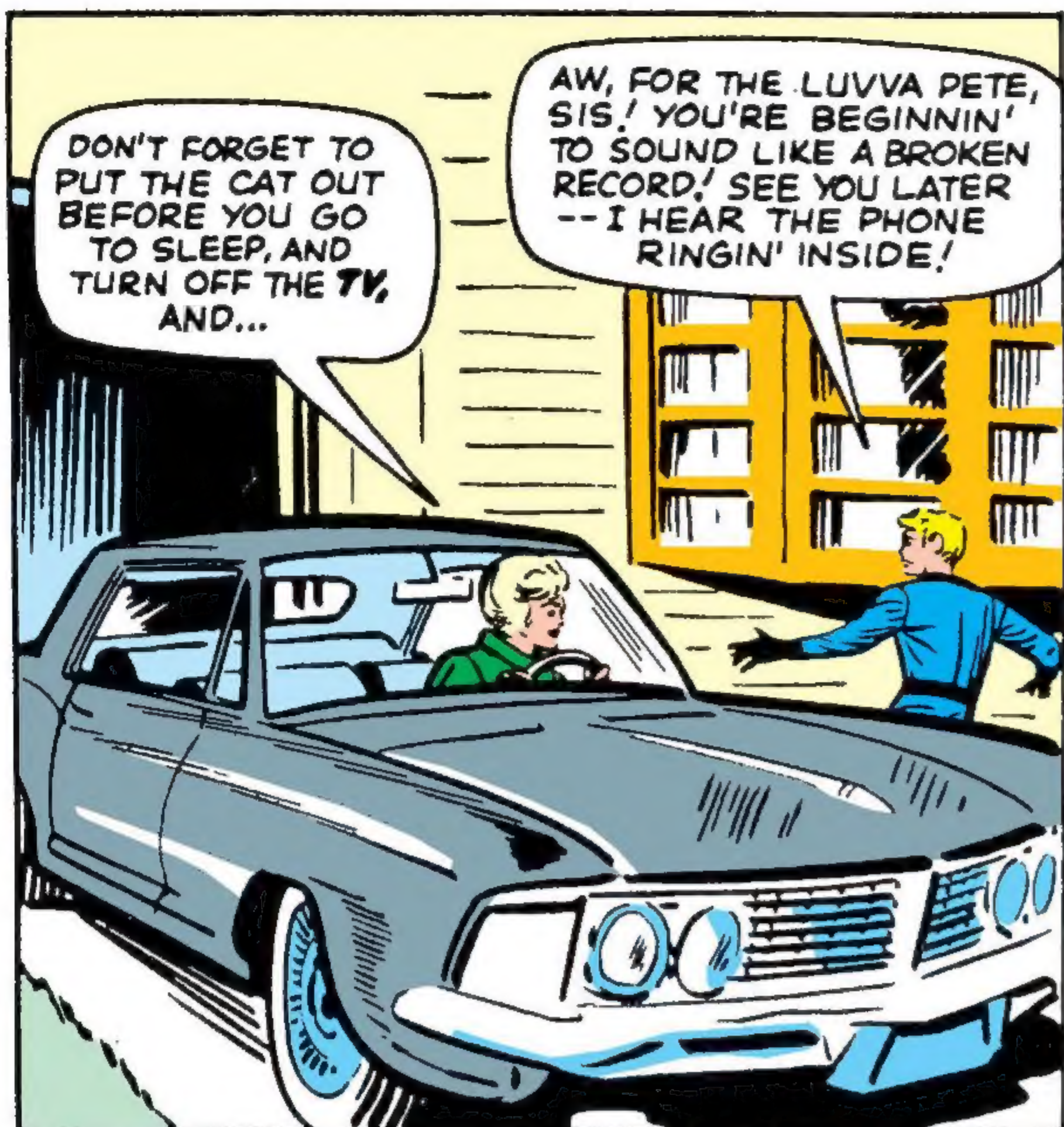












DON'T FORGET TO PUT THE CAT OUT BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP, AND TURN OFF THE TV, AND...

AW, FOR THE LUVVA PETE, SIS! YOU'RE BEGINNIN' TO SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD! SEE YOU LATER -- I HEAR THE PHONE RINGIN' INSIDE!



HI, CHIEF! NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD THE RADIO-- WHAT-?/ **SPIDER-MAN??!** YOU'RE **KIDDIN'!!** SURE-- I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU FIND 'IM!!



TALK TO YOU **LATER**, CHIEF! GOTTA HANG UP NOW! I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!



THAT SHADOW ON THE PANE!! THERE **IS** SOMEONE OUT THERE!



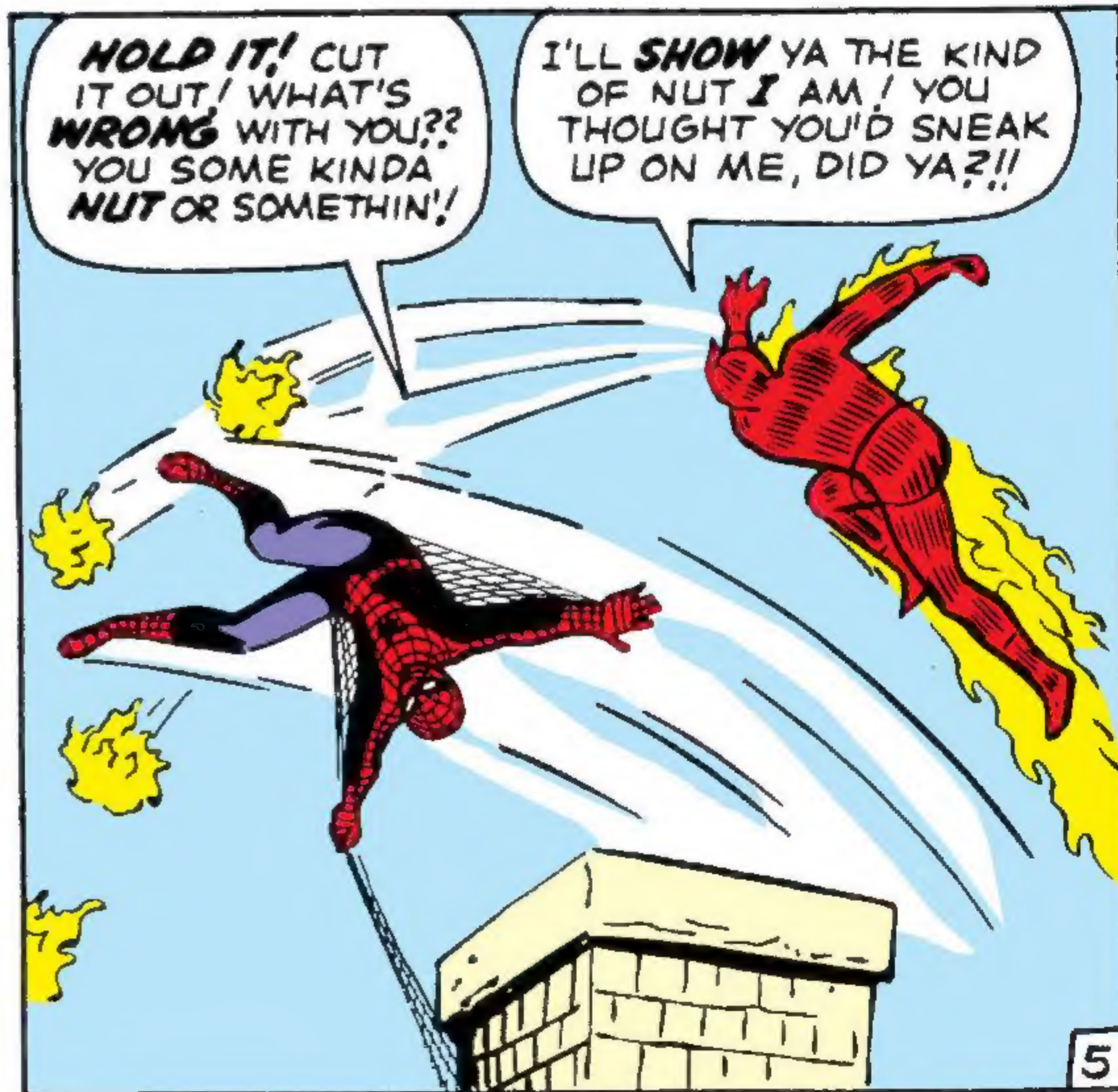
WHOEVER IT IS, HE HAS MORE NERVE THAN BRAINS! HE'S OPENIN' THE WINDOW FROM THE OUTSIDE!!

**FLAME ON!**



I'LL JUST ZIP OUT AND GRAB HIS LEGS AS I PASS 'IM! **HEY!** HE'S FASTER'N I **THOUGHT!**

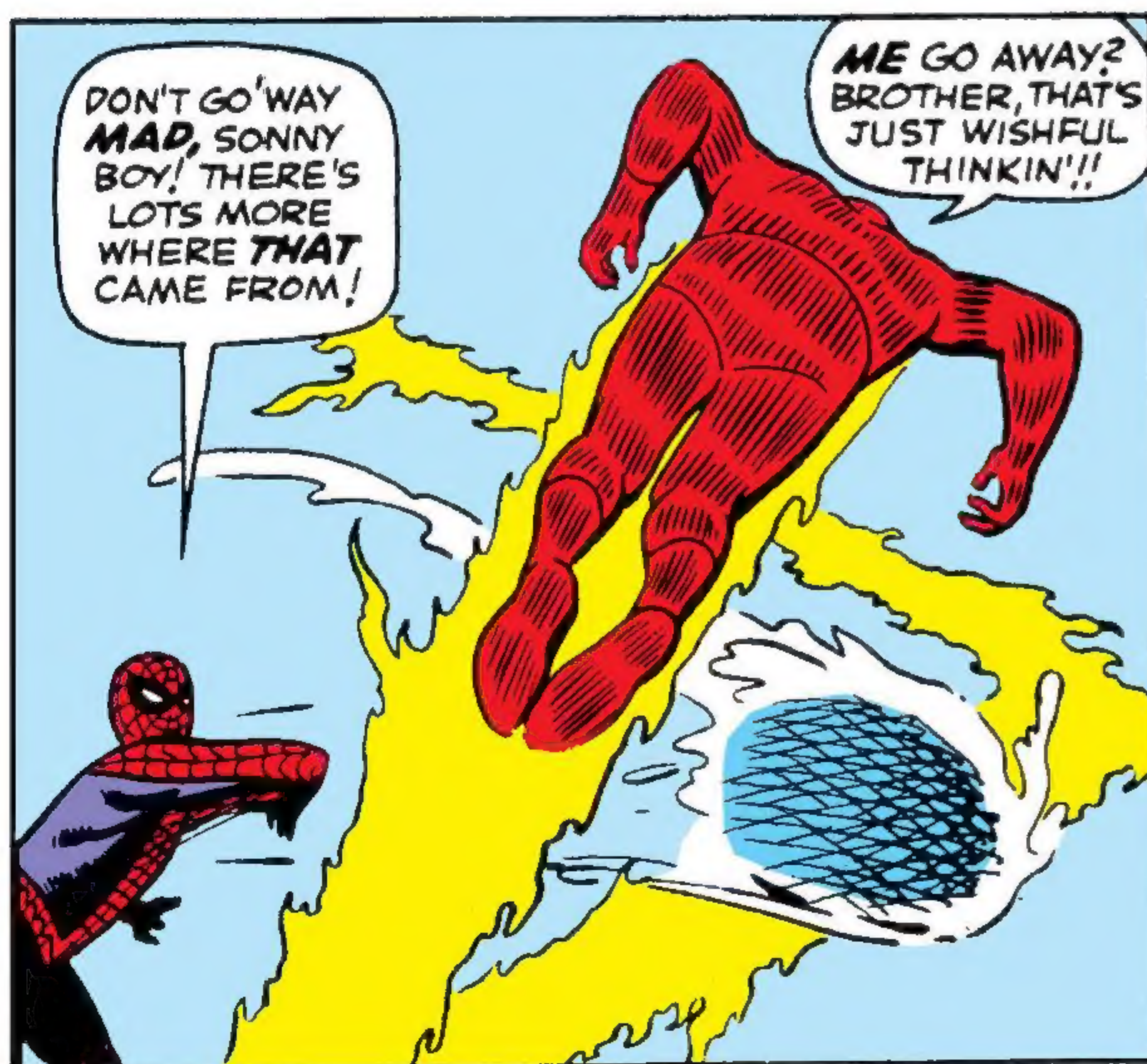
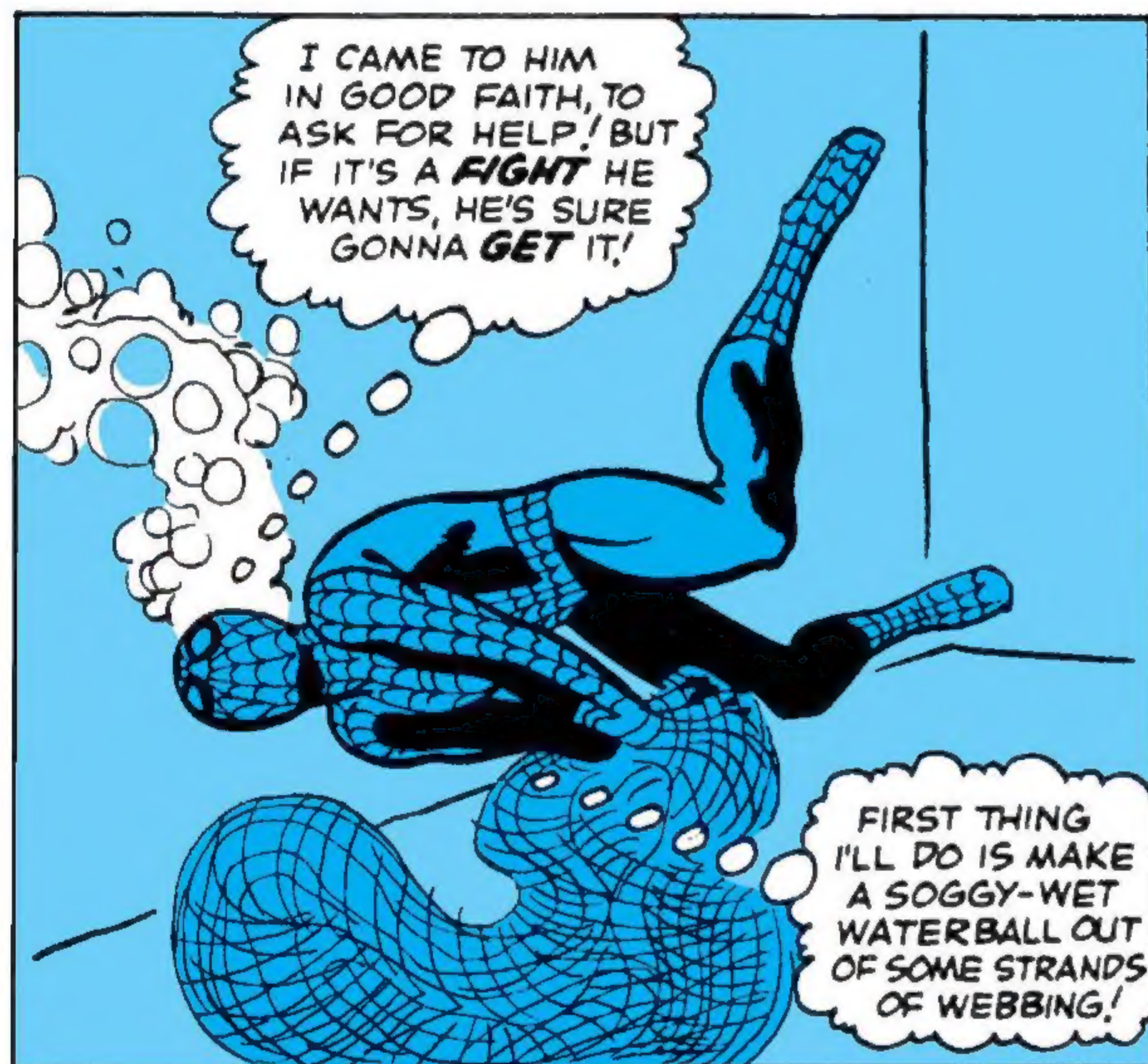
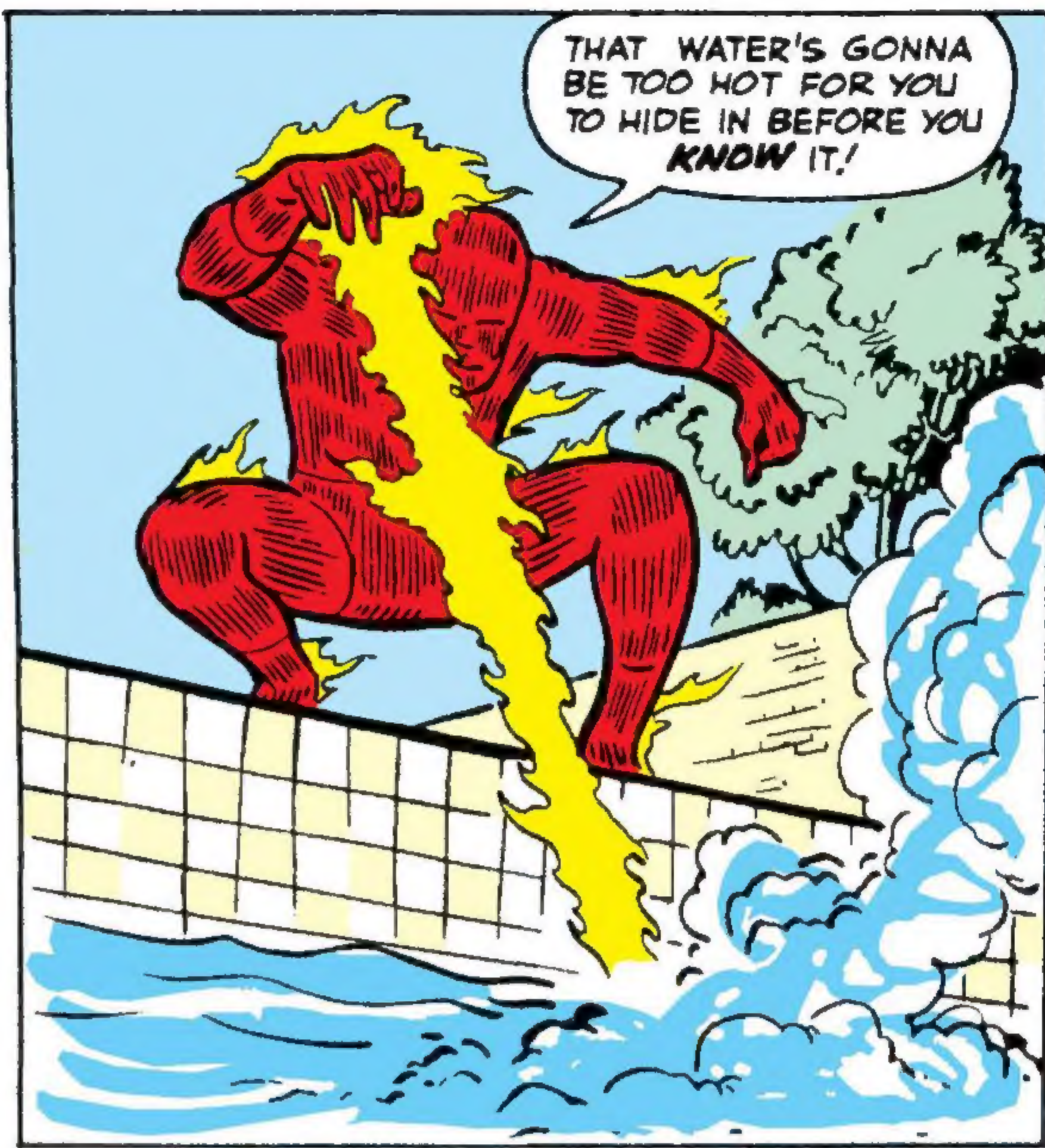
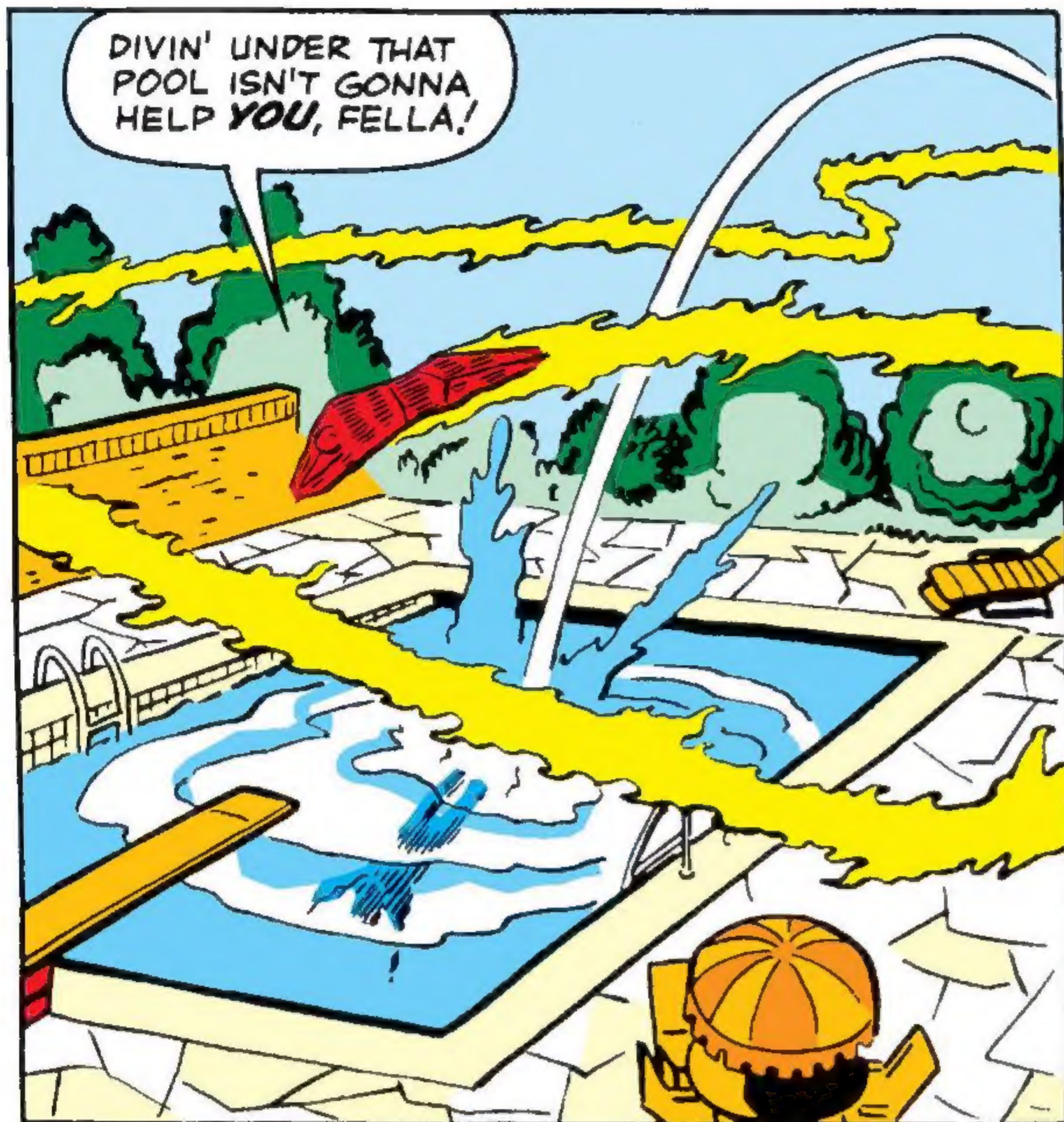
**TORCH--WAIT!** I WANT TO **TALK** TO YOU!



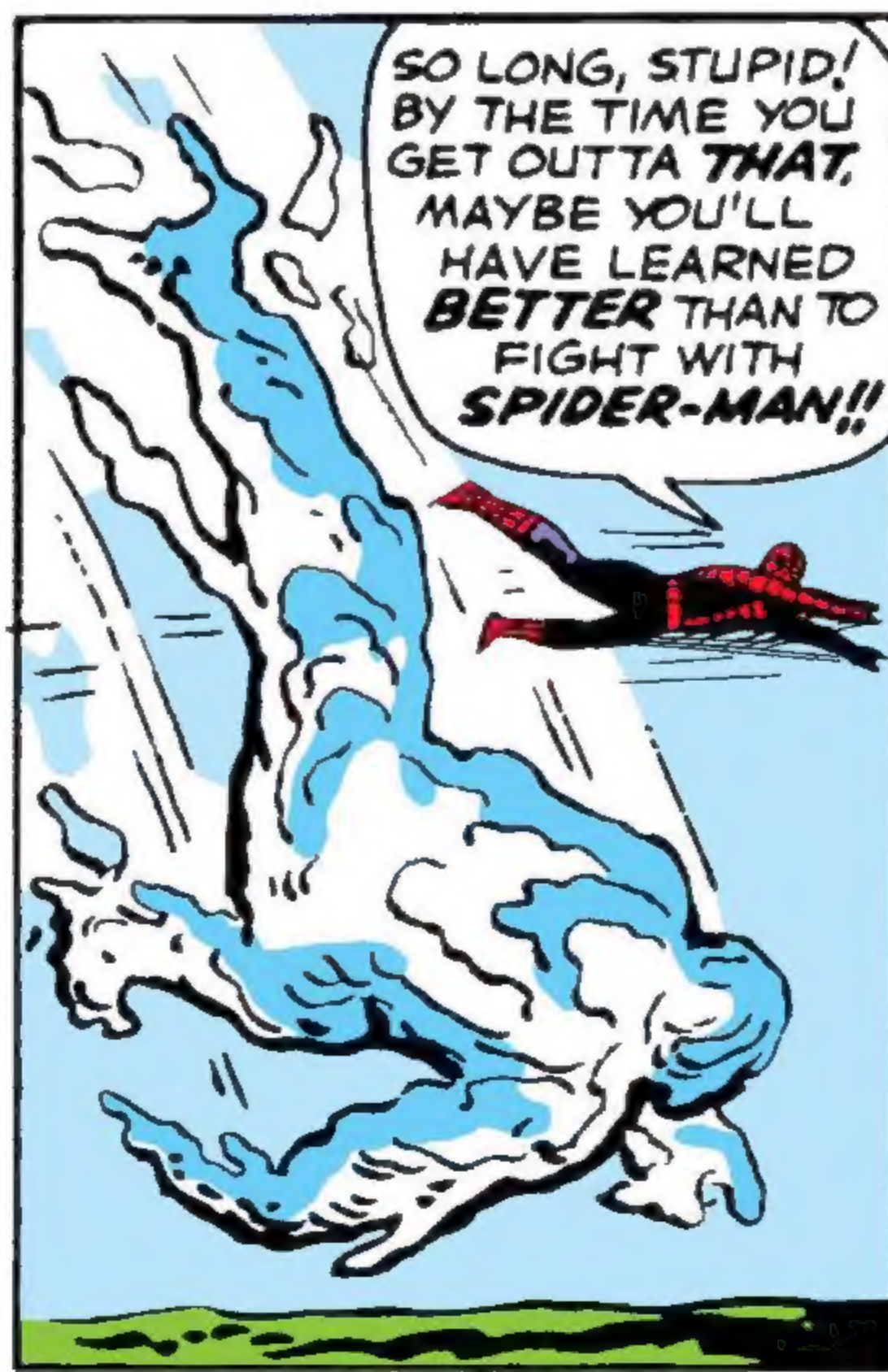
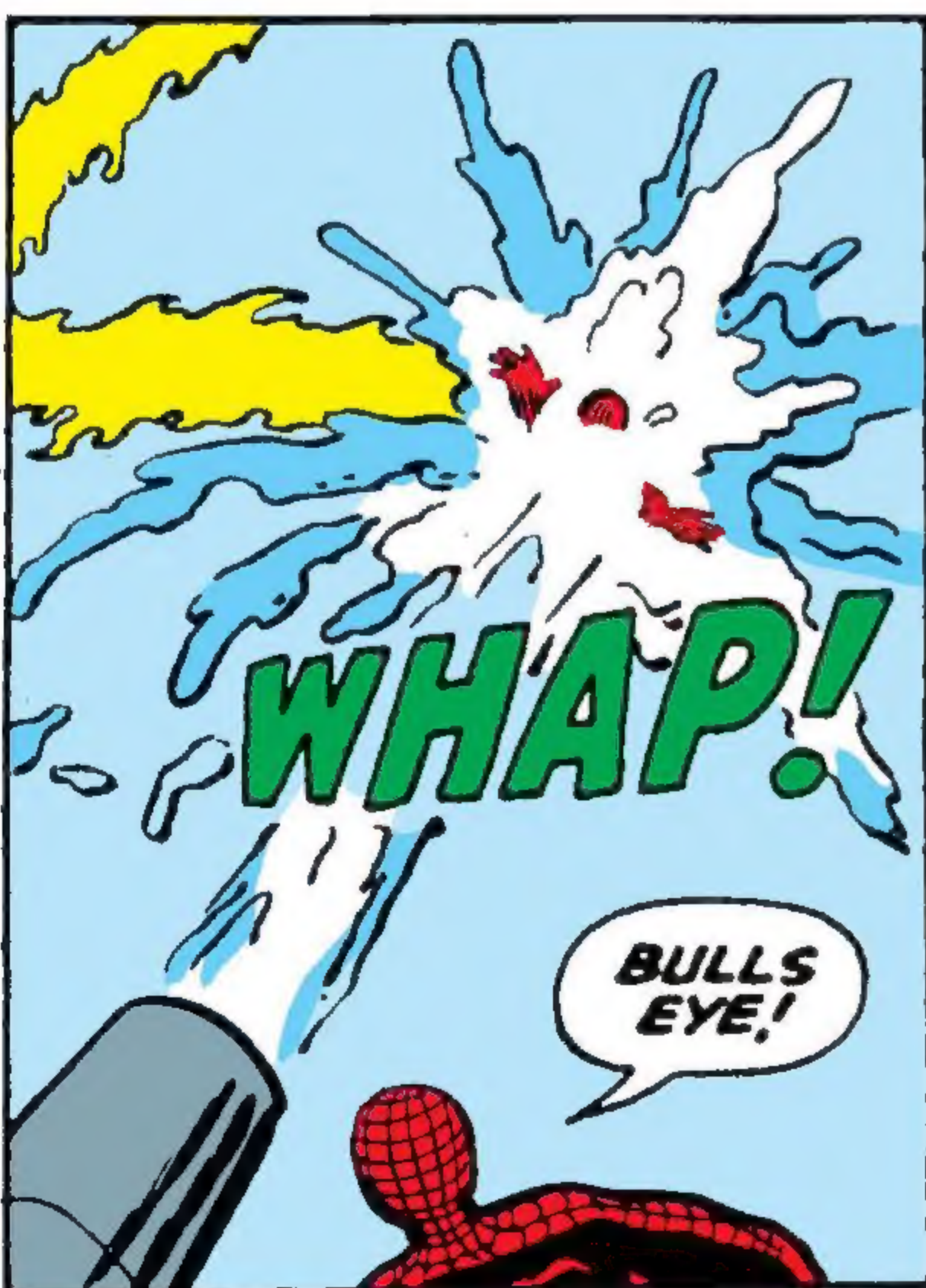
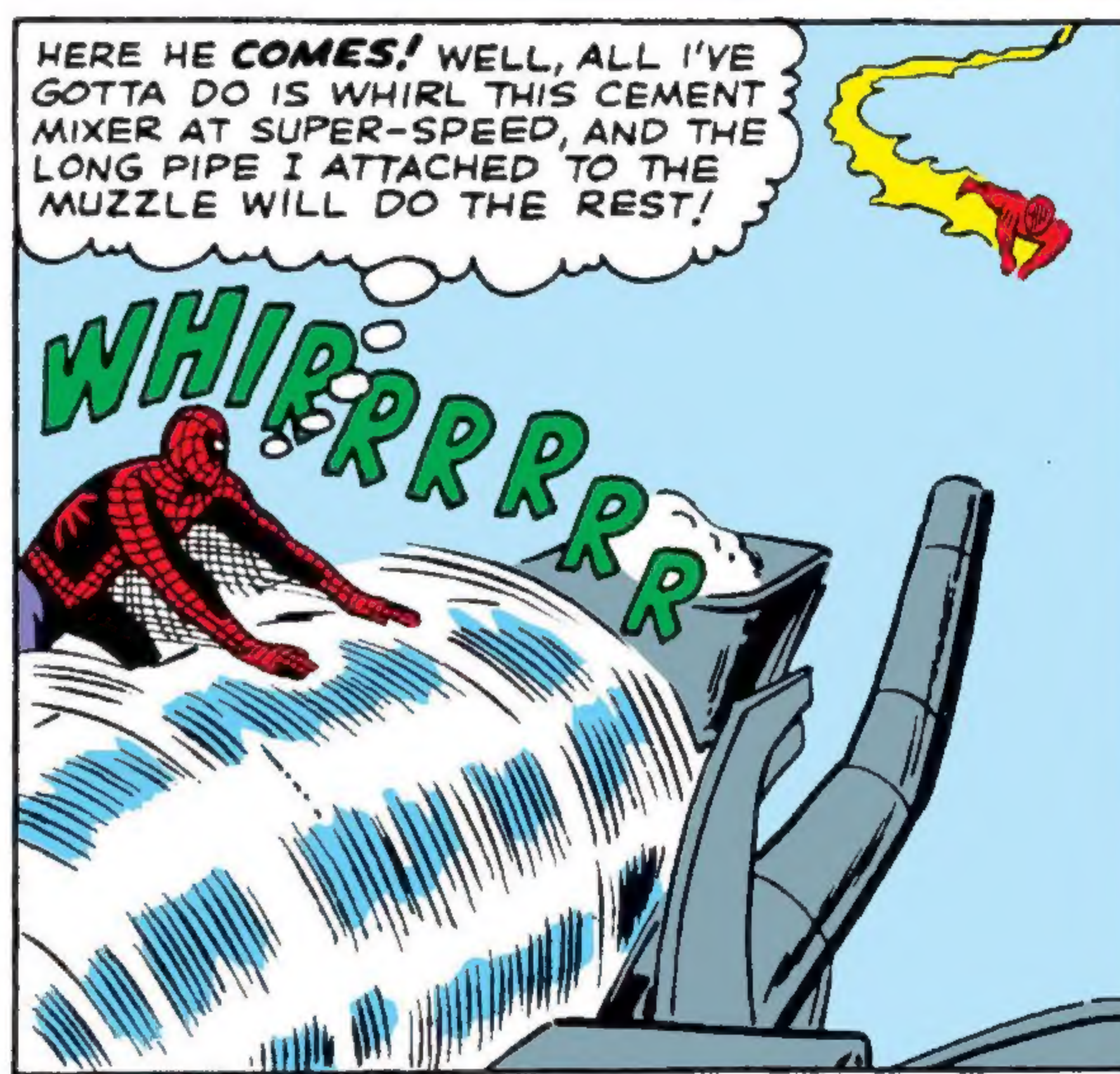
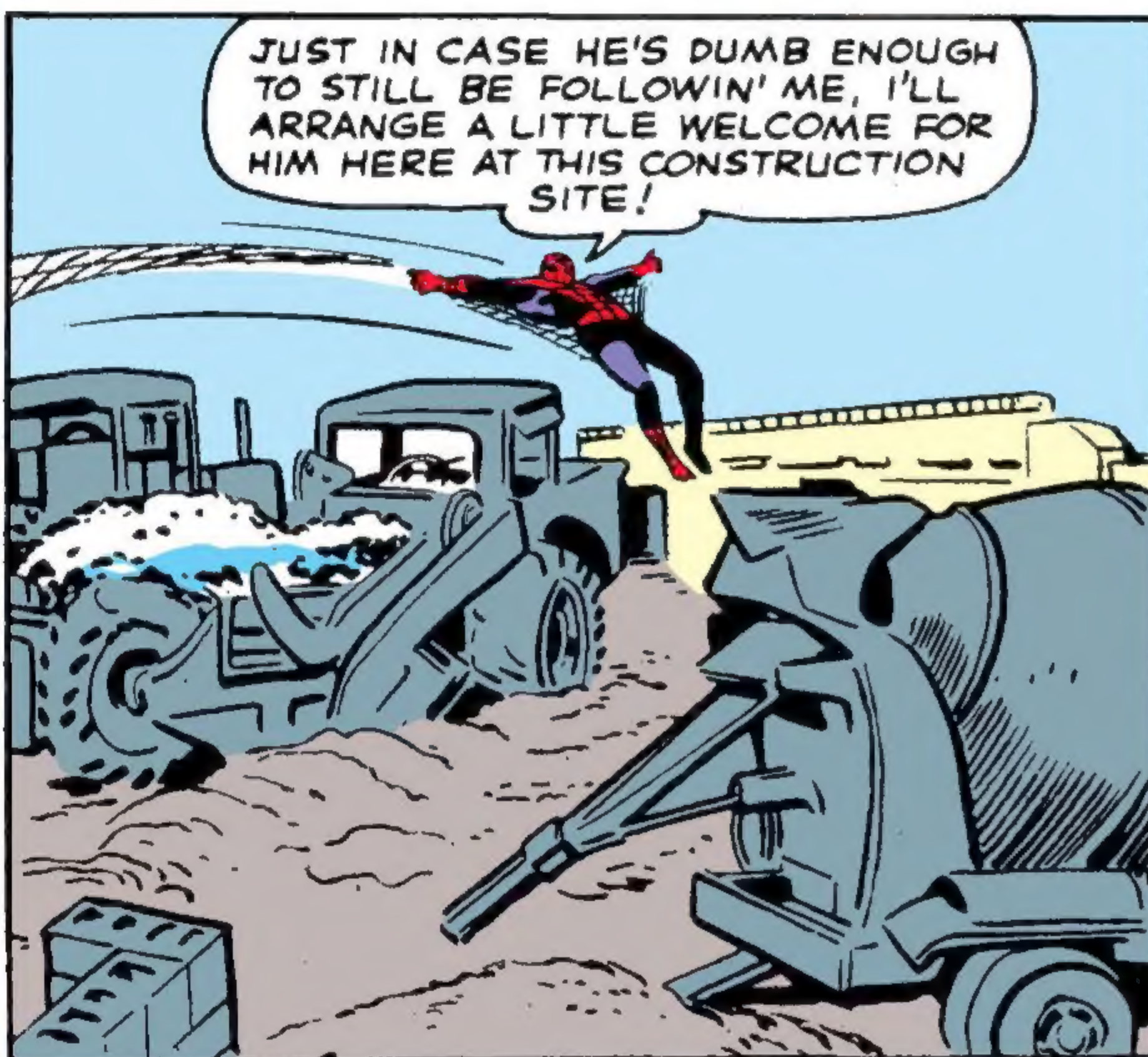
**HOLD IT!** CUT IT OUT! WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH YOU?? YOU SOME KINDA **NUT** OR SOMETHIN'!

I'LL **SHOW** YA THE KIND OF **NUT I** AM! YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SNEAK UP ON ME, DID YA?!!

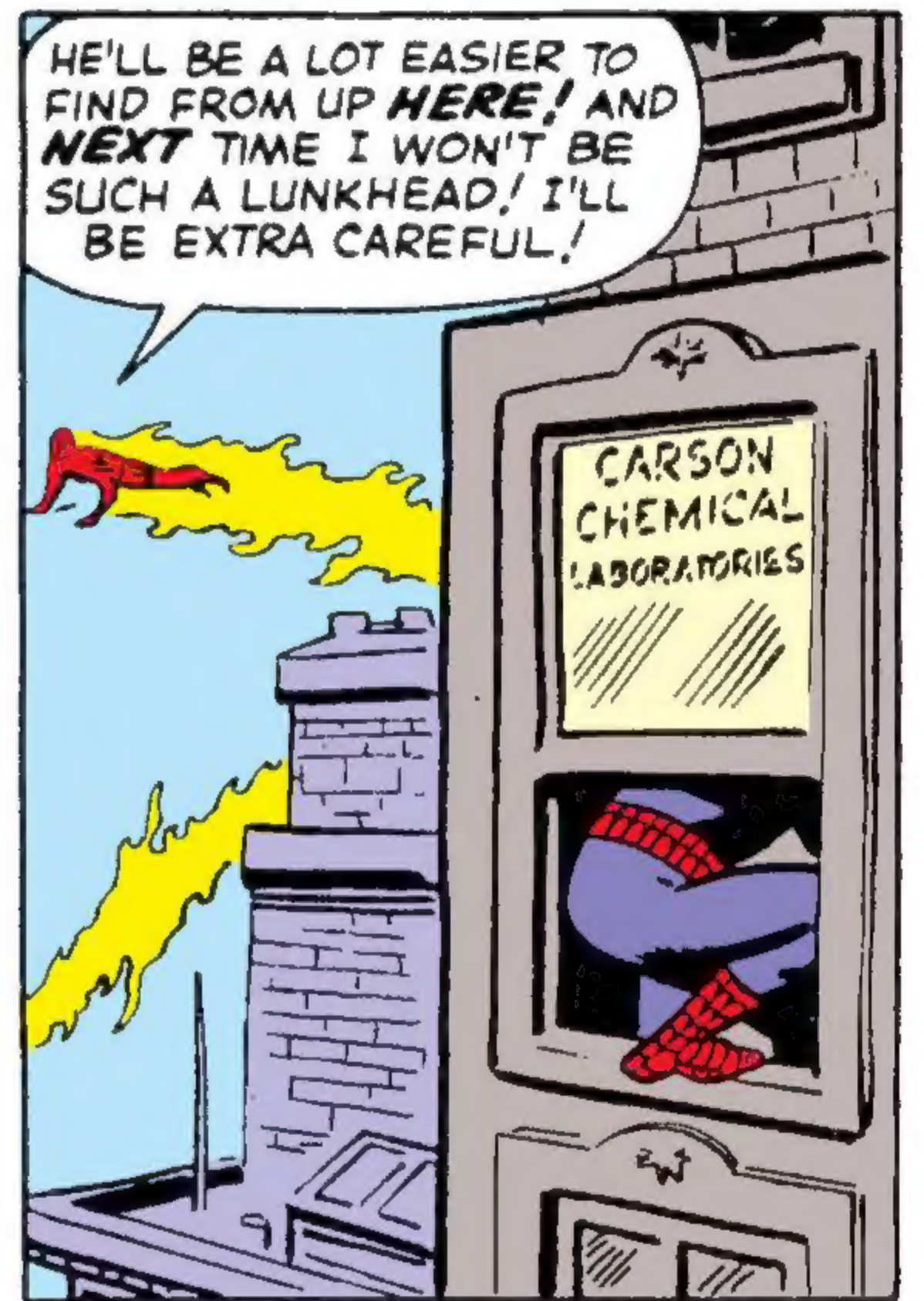
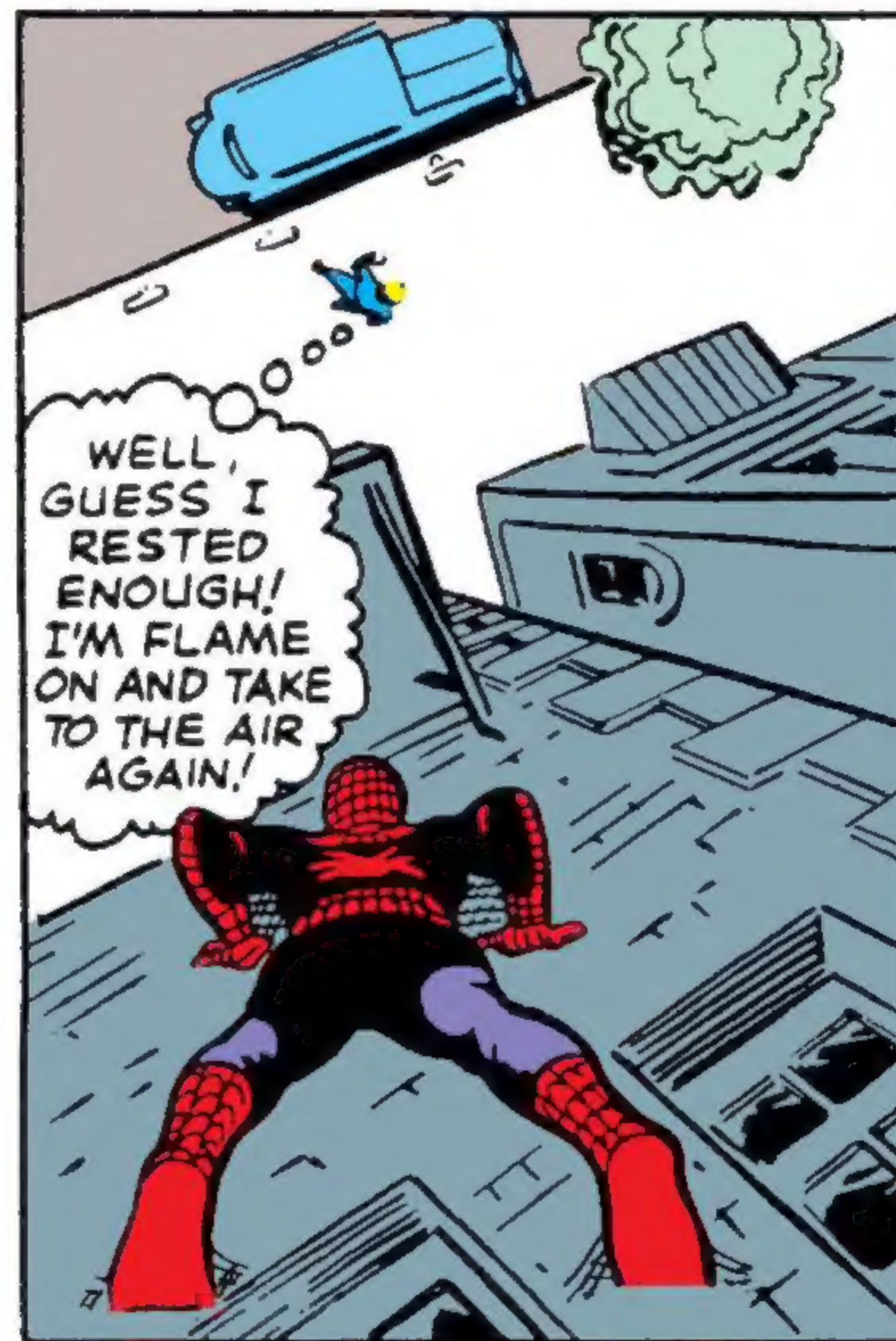
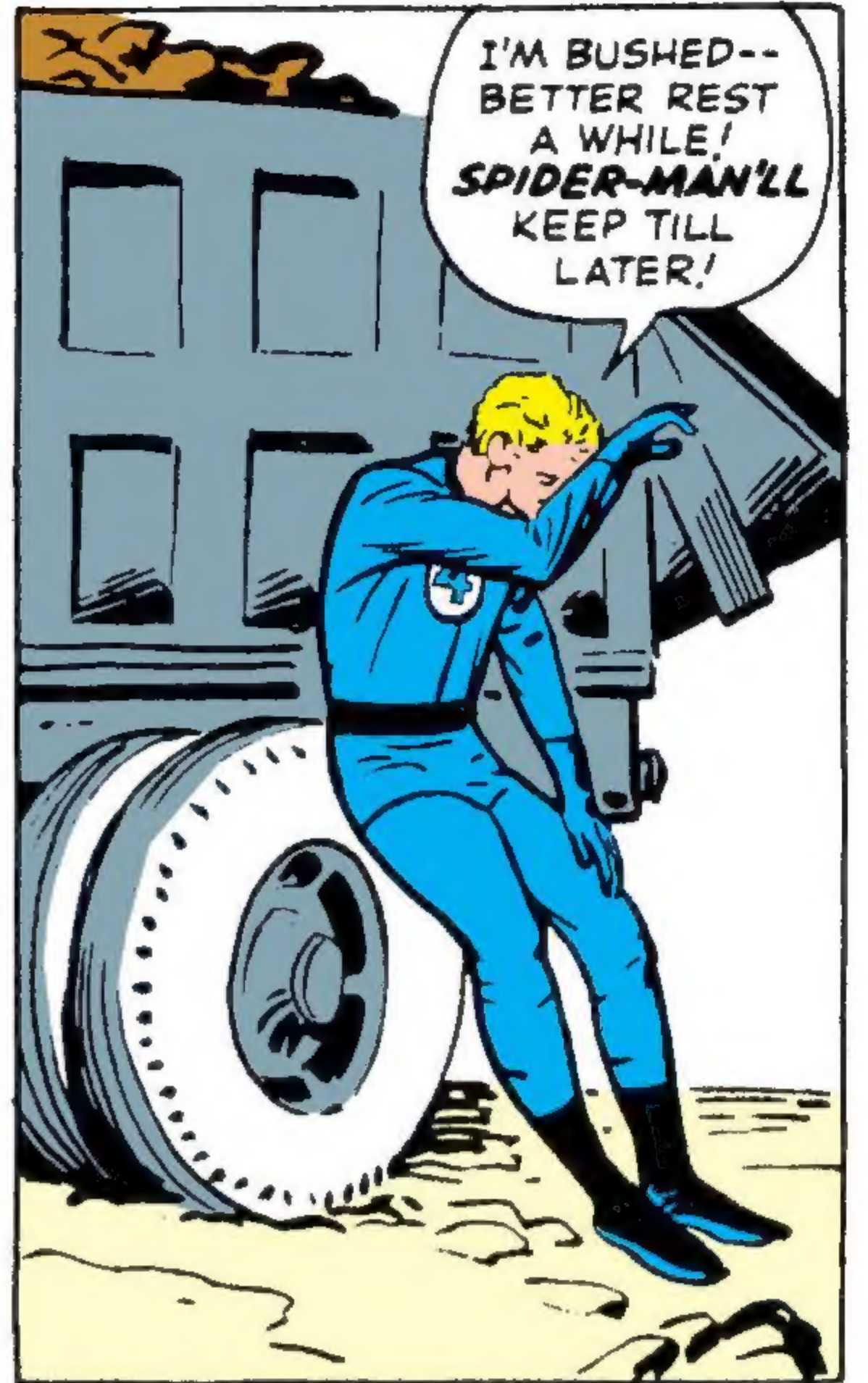




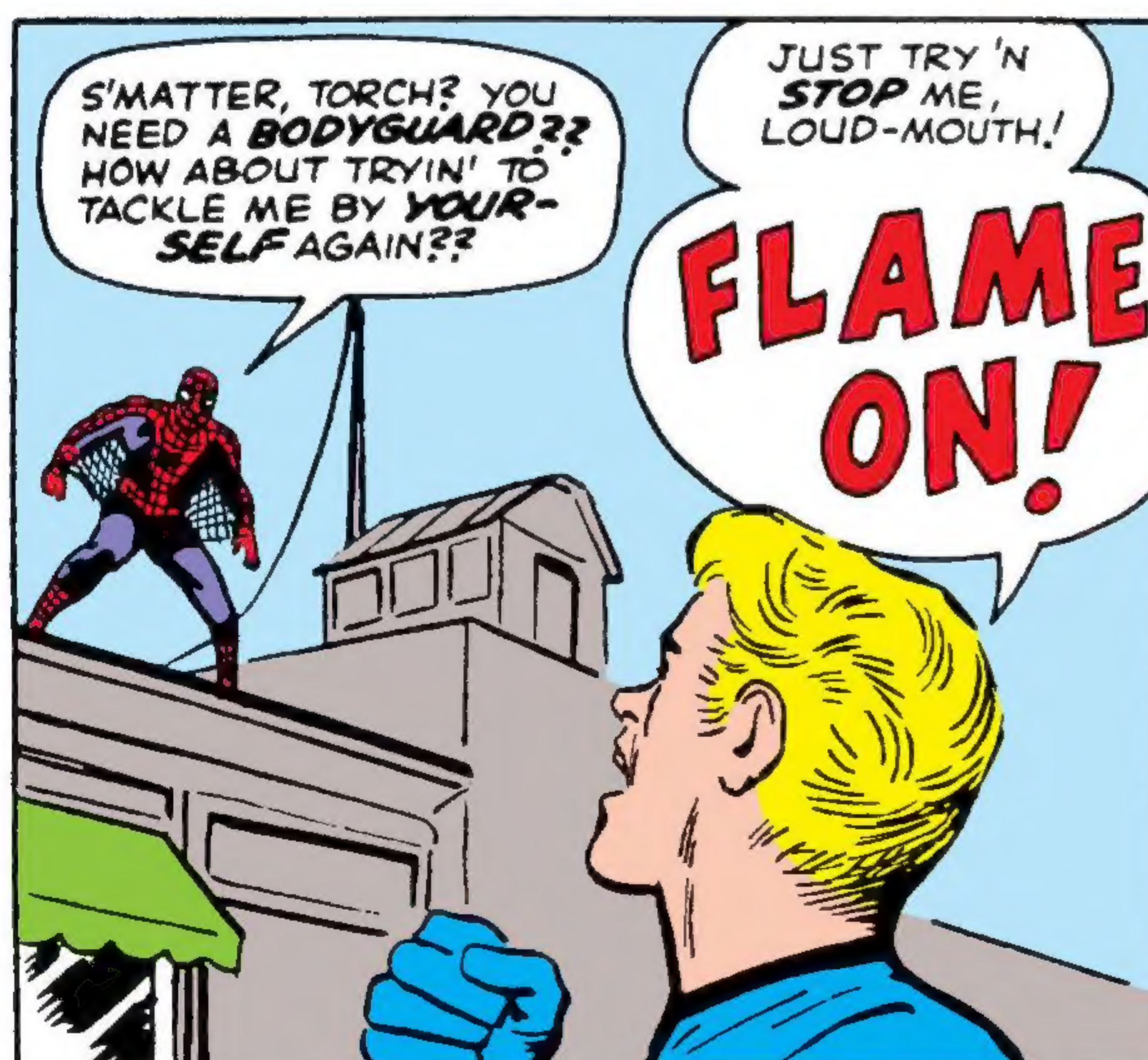
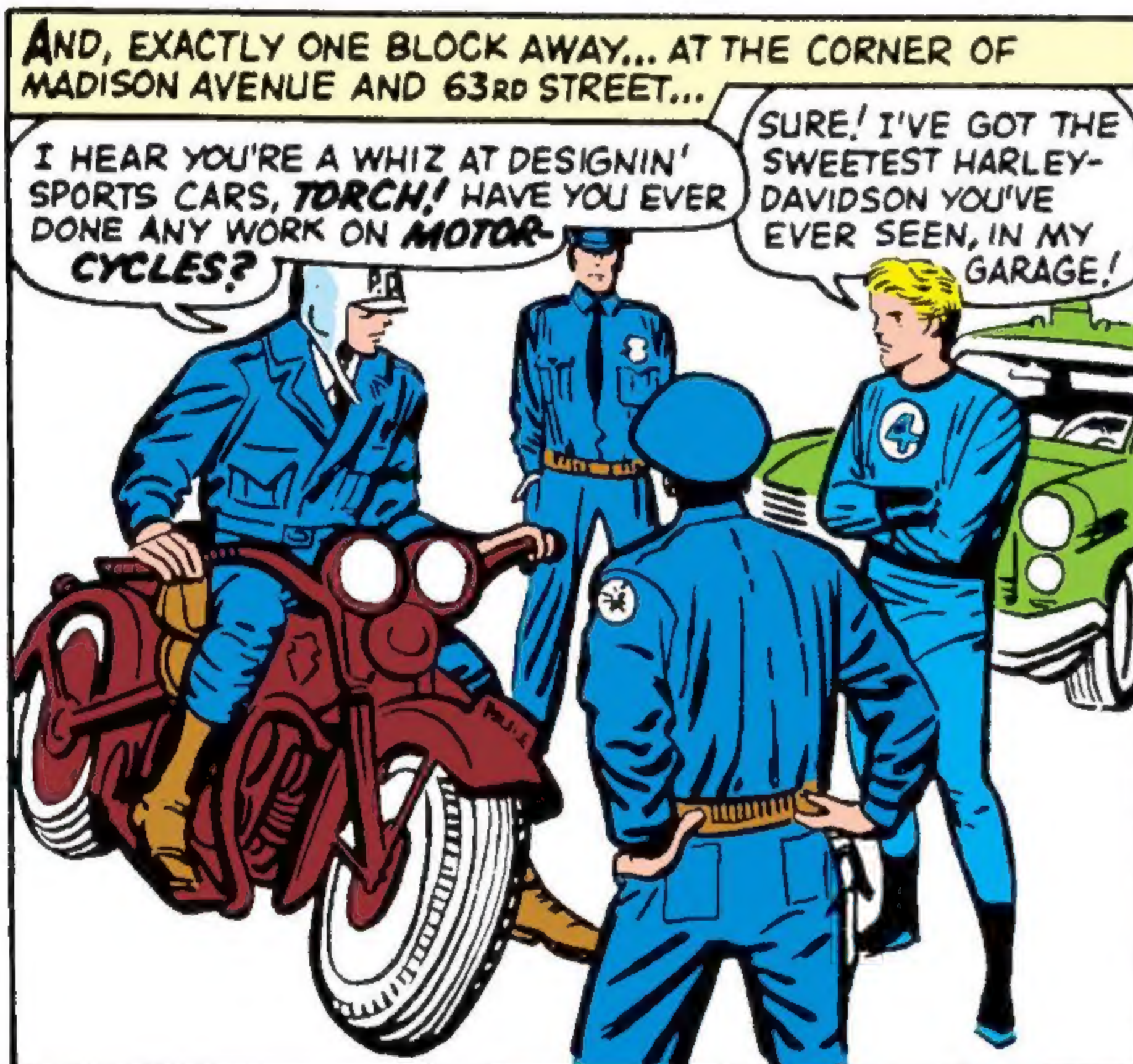
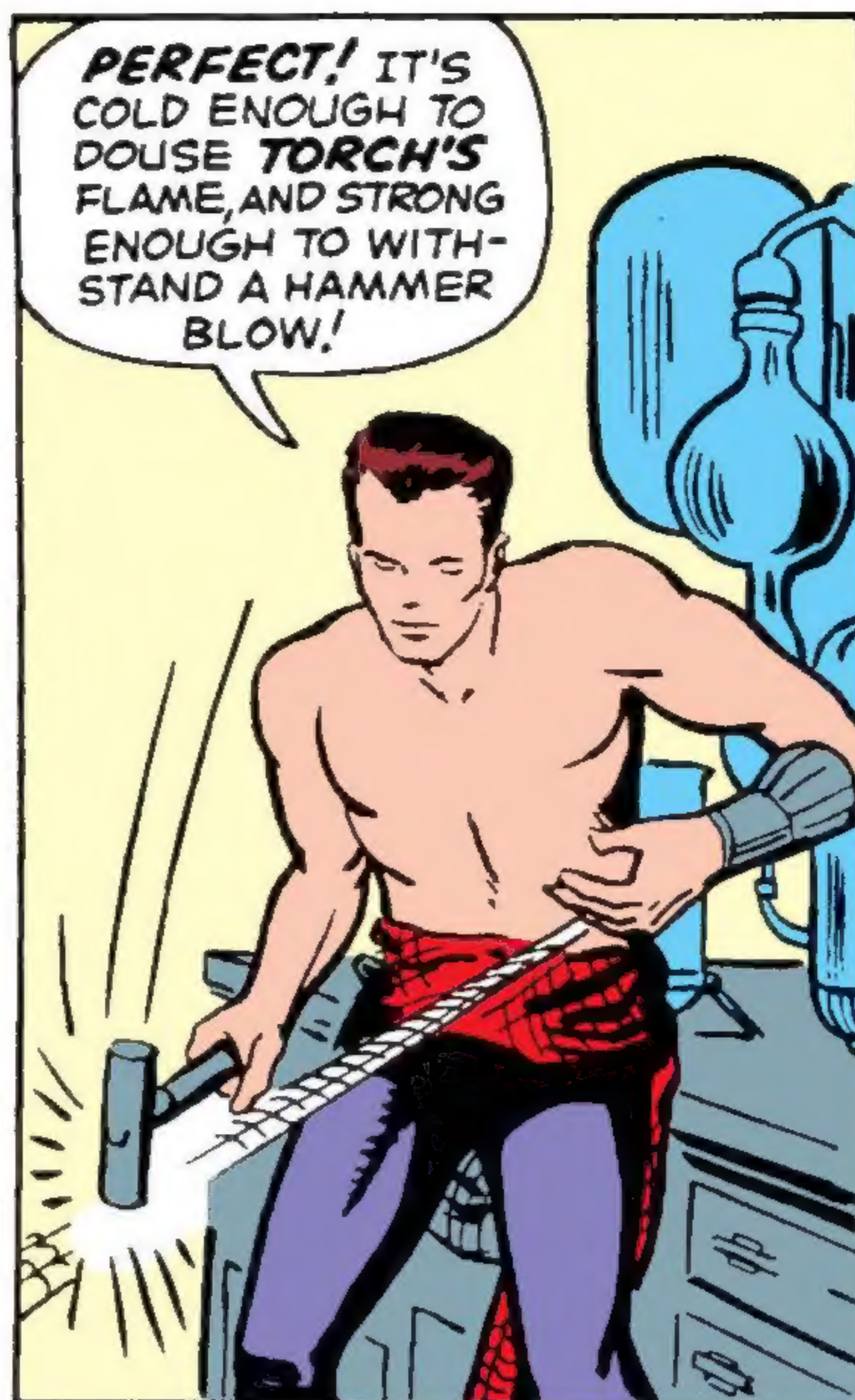
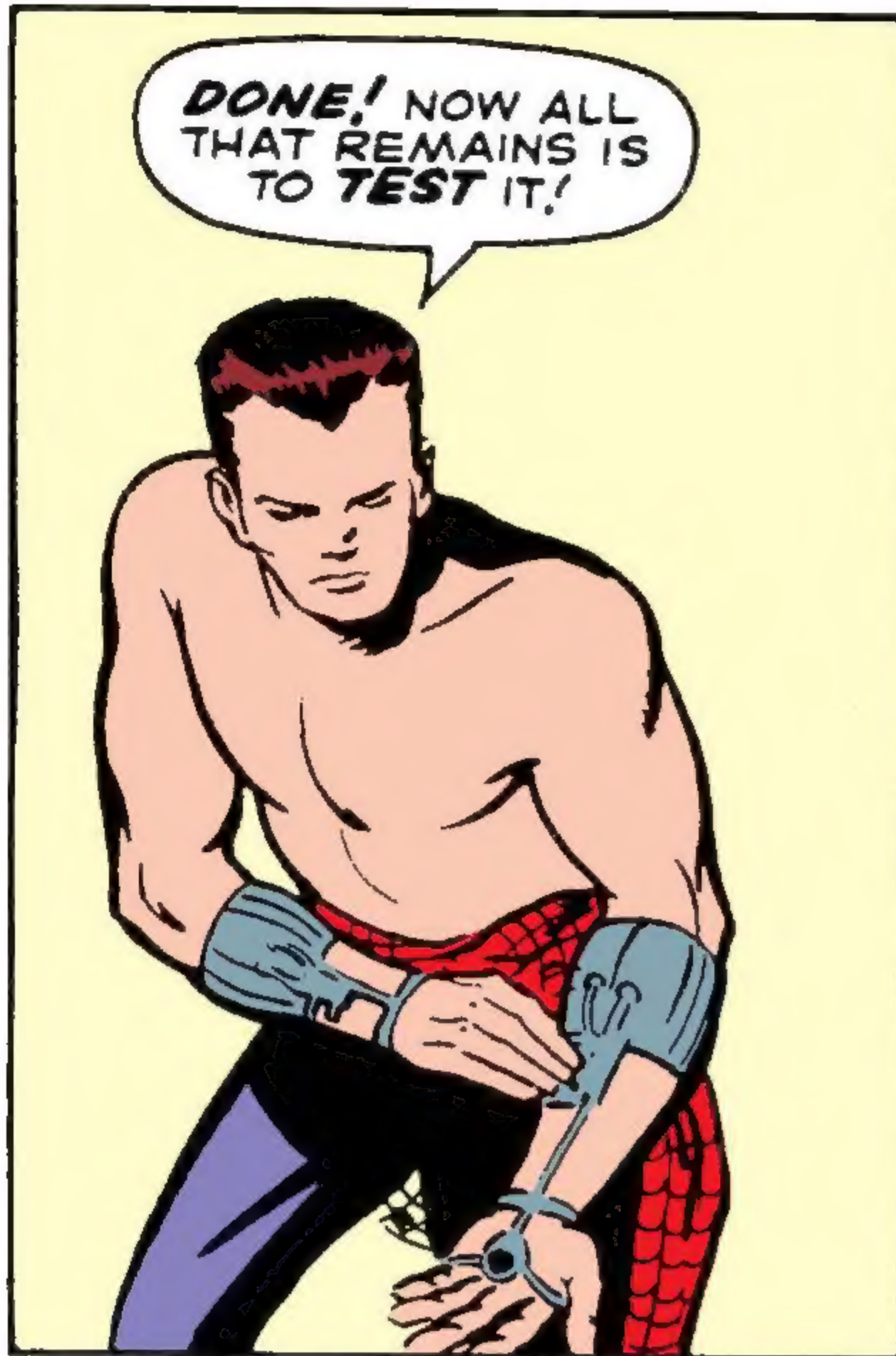




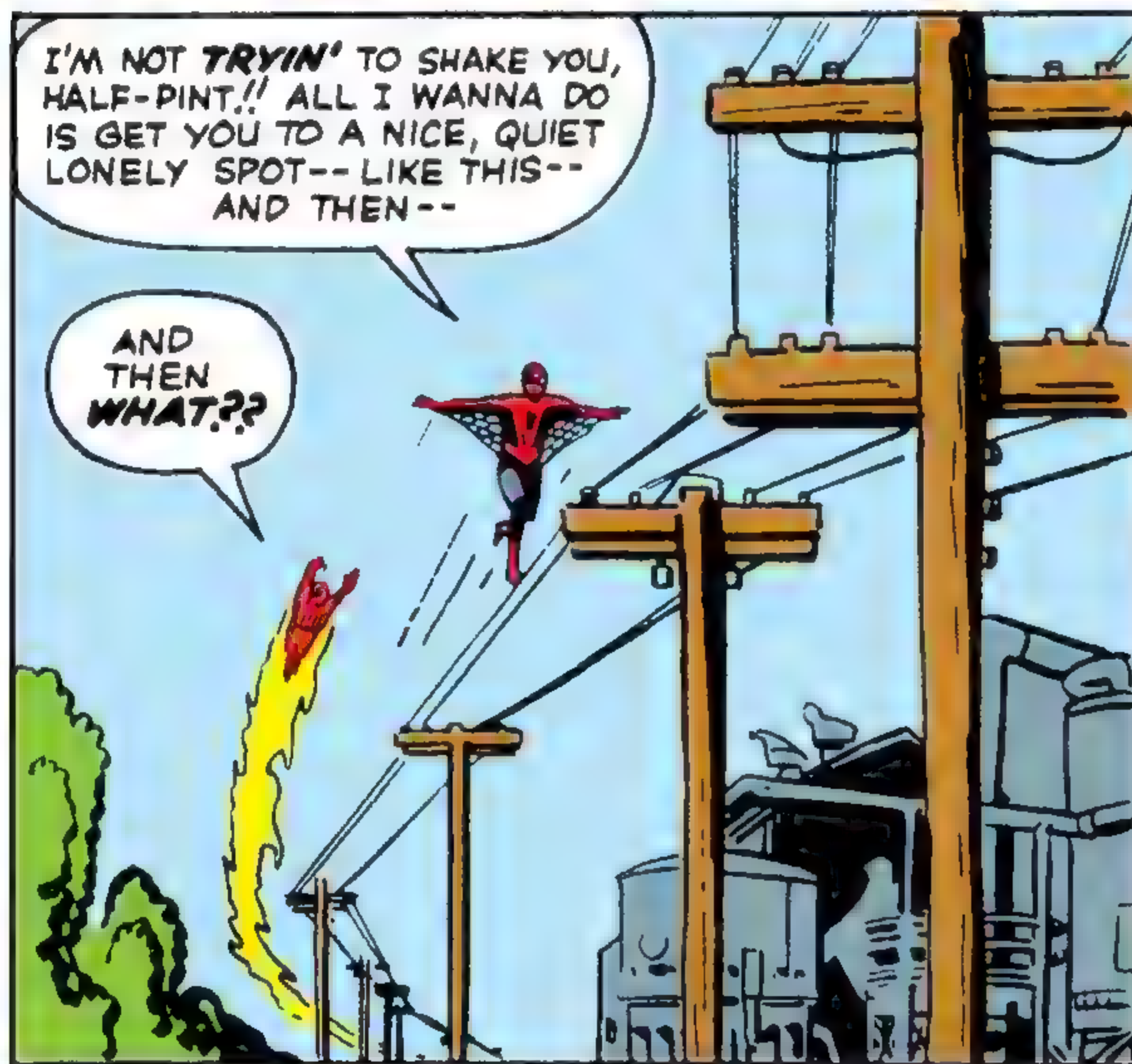




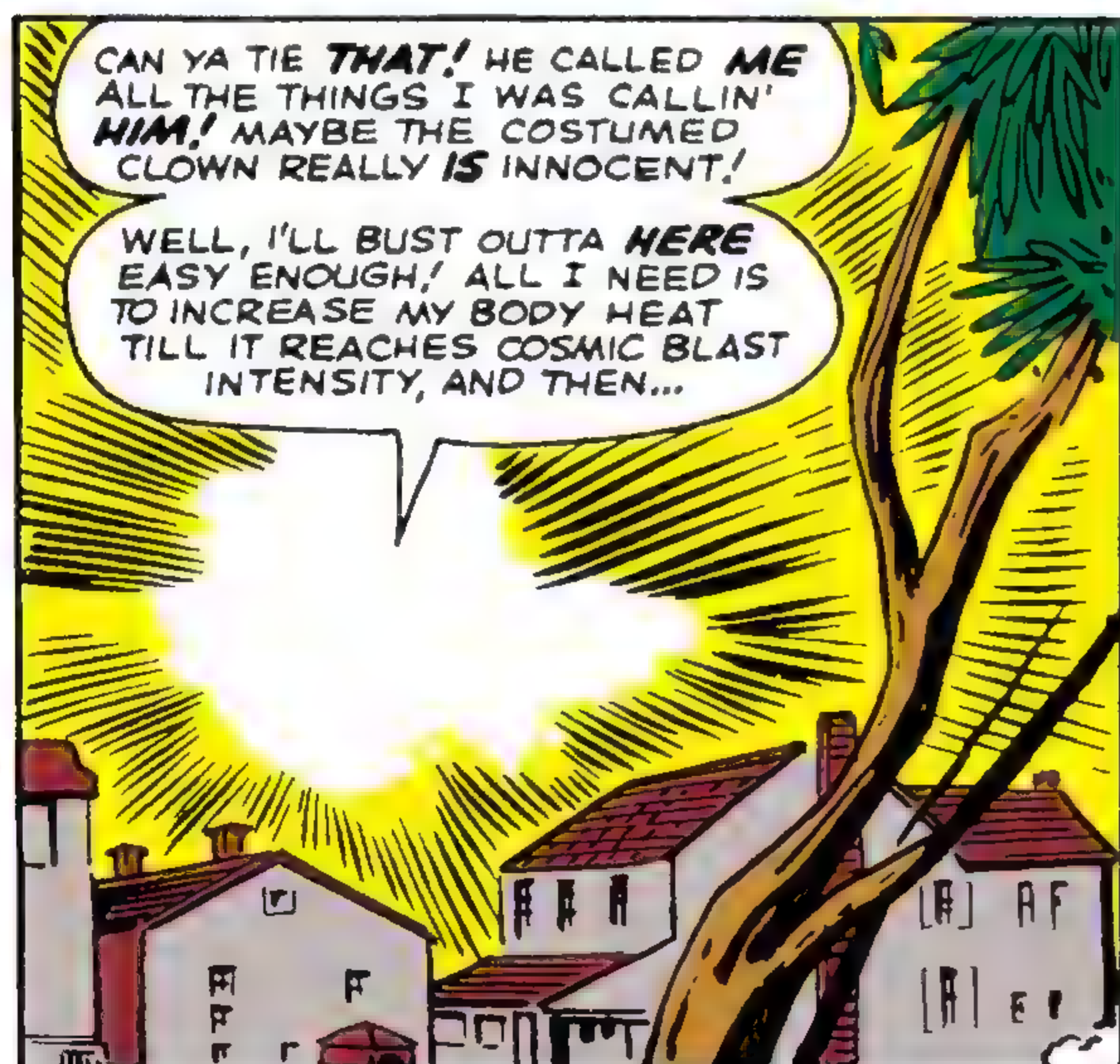
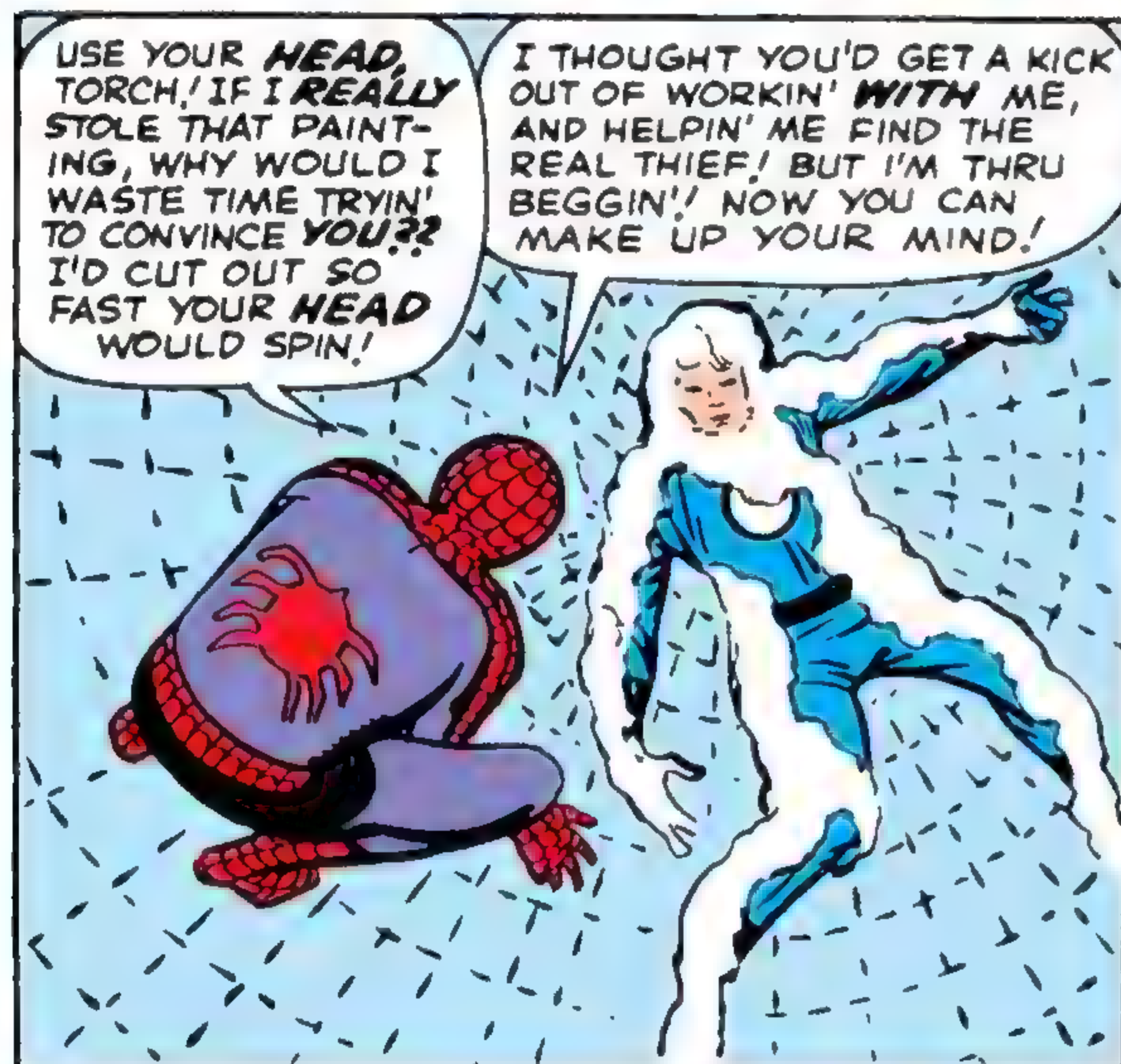














A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY POLICE INSPECTOR RUDD...

YES, CHIEF!  
SURE, CHIEF!  
I KNOW, CHIEF!  
WE'RE **BOUND**  
TO GET A LEAD  
ON **SPIDER-MAN**  
SOONER  
OR LATER!

CAN YOU USE A **LIGHT**, INSPECTOR?

I CAN USE A **MIRACLE TORCH**!  
IF I DON'T FIND THAT **SPIDER-MAN**,  
THE CHIEF'LL HAVE MY SCALP!

HE STOLE **ANOTHER** PAINTING  
A HALF HOUR AGO-- THEY  
FOUND **ANOTHER** PIECE OF  
HIS WEB RIGHT AT THE SCENE  
OF THE CRIME!

THAT **CLINCHES** IT, PAL! HE **CAN'T**  
BE GUILTY, BECAUSE HE WAS  
PLAYIN' **FOOTSIE** WITH **ME** A HALF-  
HOUR AGO!

SOMEONE'S TRYIN' TO  
**FRAME** SPIDER-MAN,  
AND WE'D BETTER FIND  
OUT **WHO**!

HMMM...  
COULD BE!

MAYBE  
I CAN  
FLY  
OVER  
THE  
CITY  
AND  
TRY TO  
FIND...

RELAX, TORCH! SOMETIMES  
THE LESS-GLAMOROUS, BUT  
TRIED-AND-TRUE POLICE  
METHODS WILL GET THE BEST  
RESULTS! LET ME GO THRU MY  
MUG SHOTS AND SEE WHAT I  
COME UP WITH!

AFTER LONG MINUTES OF PAINSTAKING  
SCRUTINY...

THE **FOX**! WHY DIDN'T I  
THINK OF **HIM** BEFORE?!! THIS HAS  
ALL THE TRADEMARKS OF ONE OF  
**HIS** CAPERS!

563419  
REYNARD  
SLINKER  
(ALIAS)  
THE **FOX**  
HEIGHT..... 5'3"  
WEIGHT..... 165  
CAUCASIAN-MALE  
METHOD OF  
OPERATION  
563500

THAT'S ALL  
I NEED,  
CHIEF! AT  
LEAST  
IT'S A  
**LEAD**!

HAVE YOUR MEN  
BLOCK ALL THE  
ARTERIES TO AND  
FROM THE CITY AND  
WAIT TILL YOU HEAR  
FROM ME! I'LL DO  
THE REST!

**SPIDER-MAN...  
LET'S WORK  
TOGETHER**

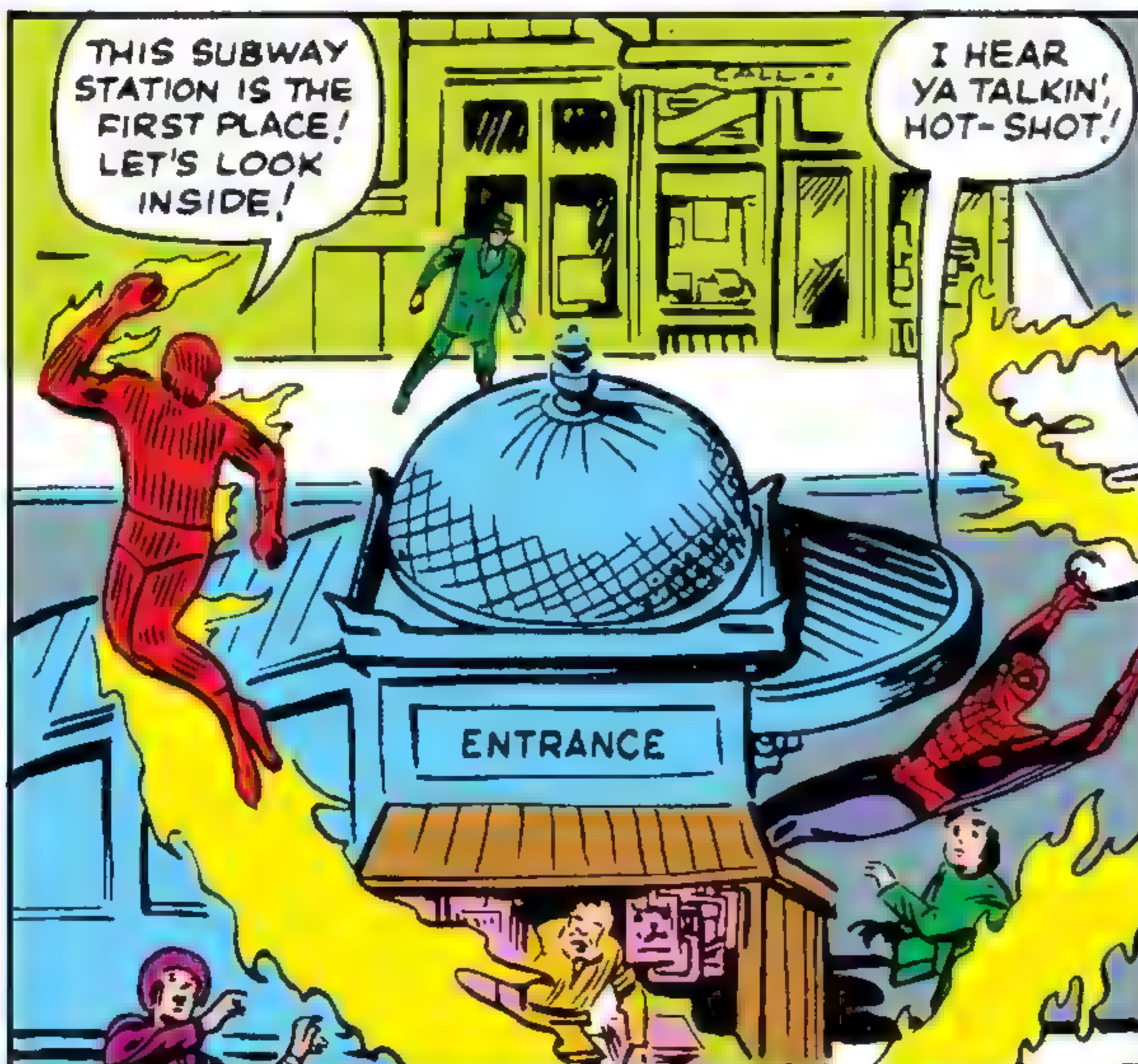
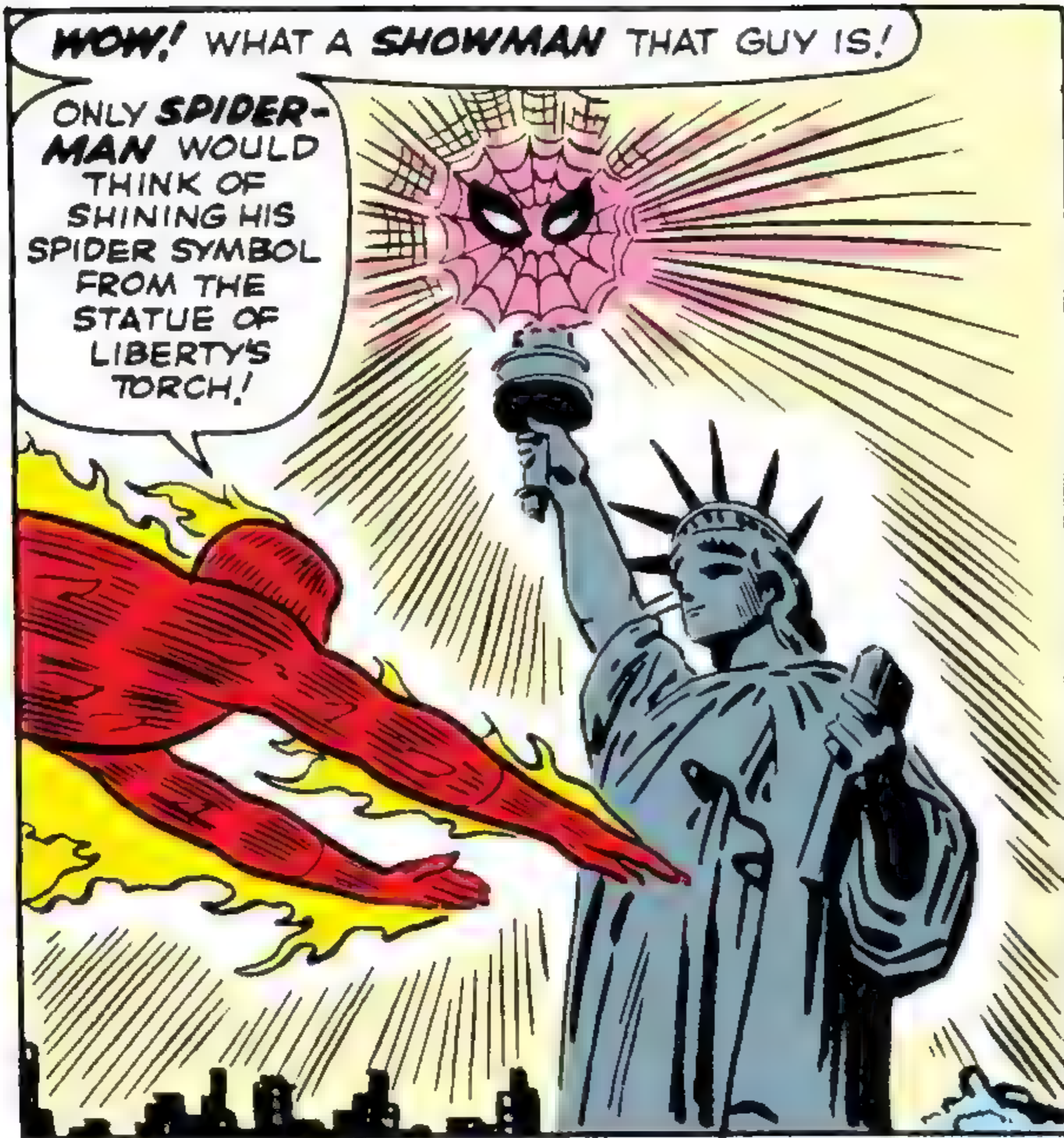
FIRST THING  
TO DO IS  
CONTACT  
**SPIDER-MAN**!

BUT **OTHER** EYES HAVE **ALSO** SEEN THE DRAMATIC  
LETTERS OF FIRE IN THE SKY!

HEY, BOSS-- IF THE  
**TORCH** TEAMS UP  
WITH **SPIDER-MAN**,  
I DON'T WANT ANY  
**PART** OF IT!

A WISE GENERAL KNOWS  
WHEN TO RETREAT! DON'T  
PANIC, BOYS... WE'LL SIMPLY  
LEAVE TOWN FOR A WHILE  
FOR OUR, EH, HEALTH!











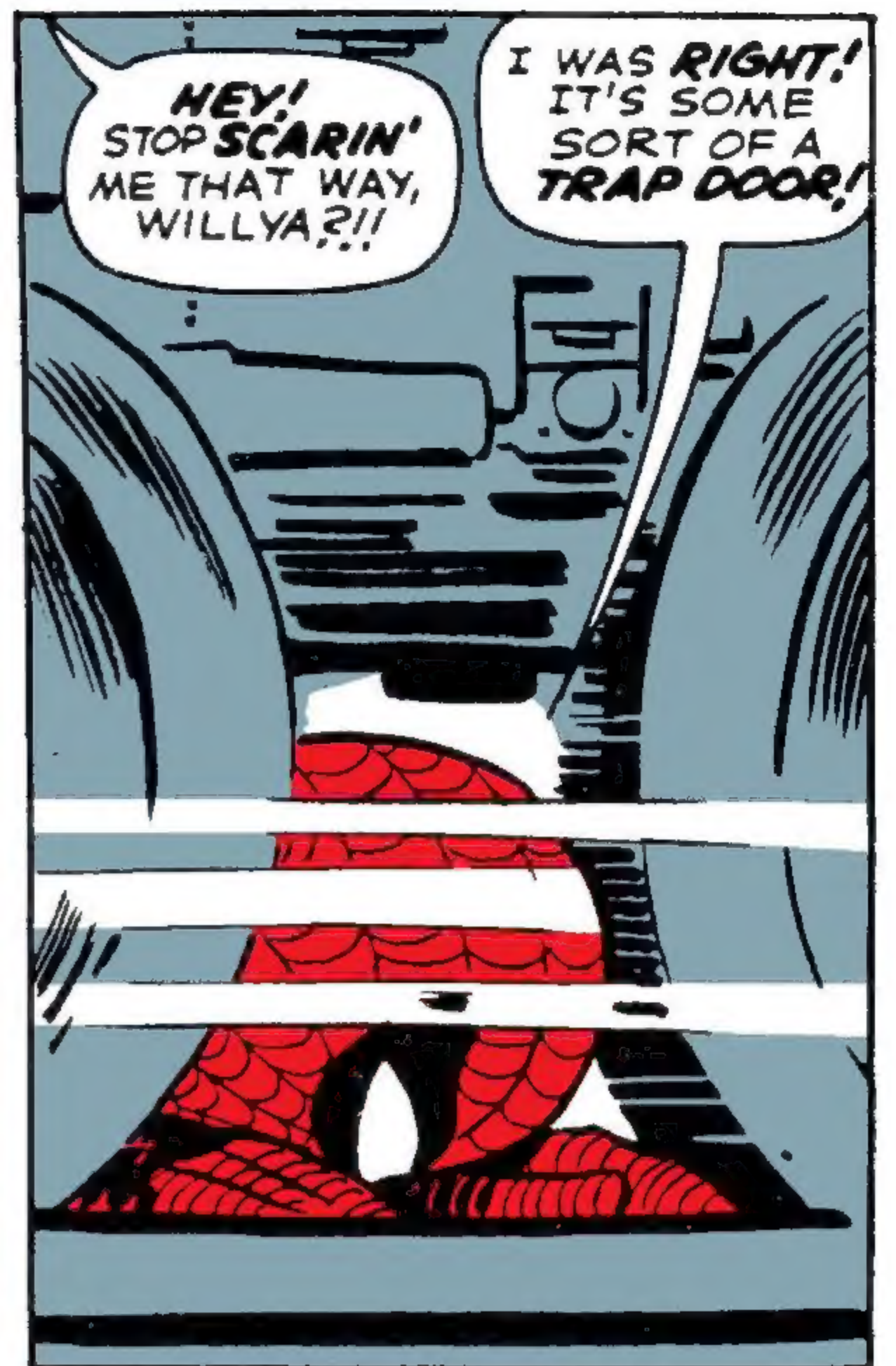


OKAY, HOT STUFF, LET'S GO!  
THE **FOX** HEADED THIS WAY!



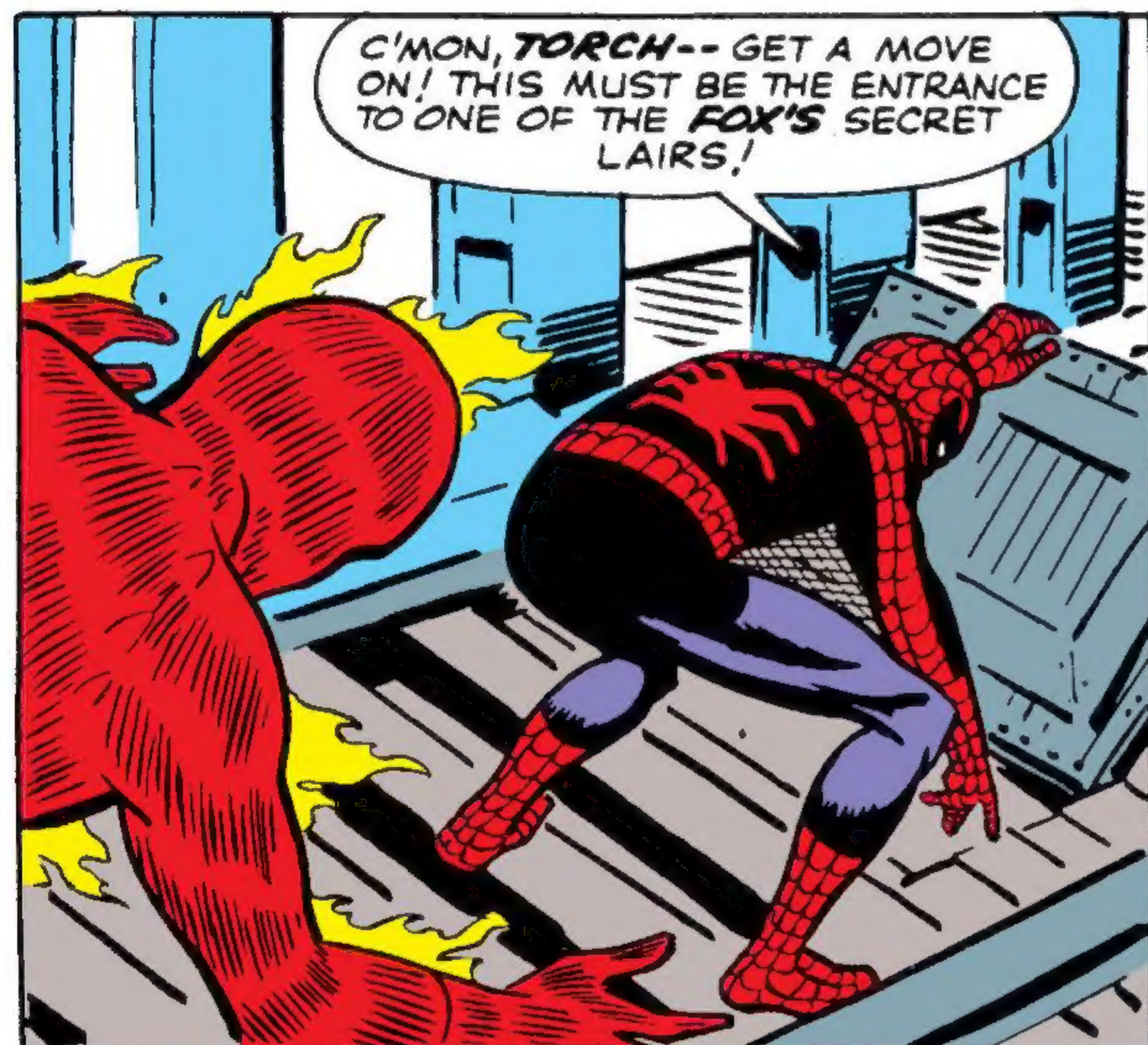
MOVE,  
CHOWDERHEAD!!  
THERE'S A **TRAIN**  
BEHIND YOU!

WAIT!  
WHAT WAS  
THAT THING  
I JUST RAN  
PAST--ON  
THE TRACKS  
BELOW??



HEY!  
STOP **SCARIN'**  
ME THAT WAY,  
WILLYA?!!

I WAS **RIGHT!**  
IT'S SOME  
SORT OF A  
**TRAP DOOR!**

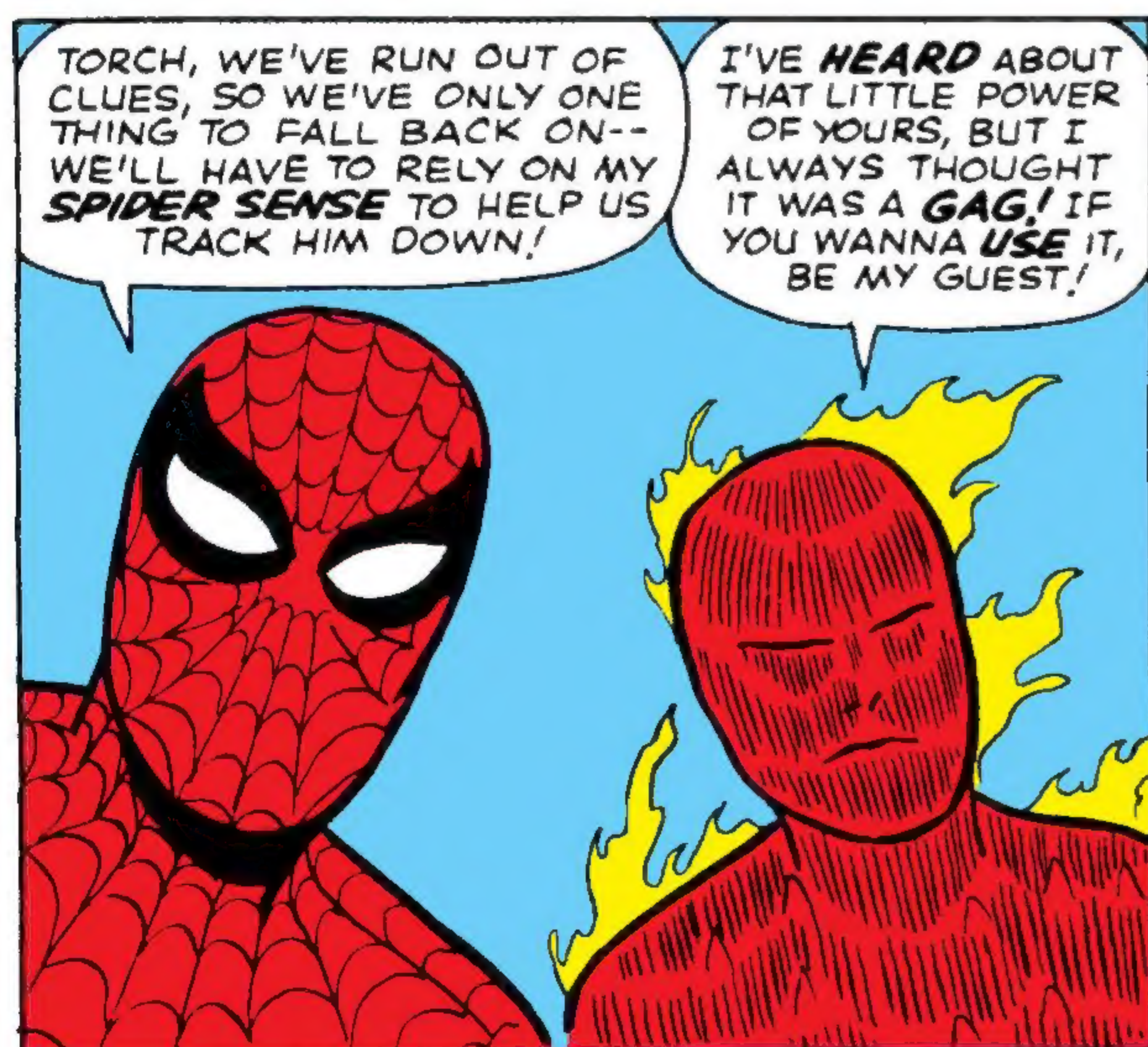


C'MON, **TORCH**-- GET A MOVE  
ON! THIS MUST BE THE ENTRANCE  
TO ONE OF THE **FOX'S** SECRET  
LAIRS!



SAY! SOME  
COZY SET-UP  
HE'S GOT  
HERE!

YEAH, BUT NO SIGN OF **HIM**, OR  
THE **DA VINCI** PAINTING! HE  
GAVE US THE SLIP! BUT HE CAN'T  
HAVE GOTTEN FAR!



TORCH, WE'VE RUN OUT OF  
CLUES, SO WE'VE ONLY ONE  
THING TO FALL BACK ON--  
WE'LL HAVE TO RELY ON MY  
**SPIDER SENSE** TO HELP US  
TRACK HIM DOWN!

I'VE **HEARD** ABOUT  
THAT LITTLE POWER  
OF YOURS, BUT I  
ALWAYS THOUGHT  
IT WAS A **GAG!** IF  
YOU WANNA **USE** IT,  
BE MY GUEST!



FAIR ENOUGH! LET'S HEAD  
FOR THE **BOWERY**...MIGHT  
AS WELL START WITH  
THE CRUMMIEST PART  
OF TOWN!

SPIDER SENSE!  
BIG DEAL! I'D  
HAVE THOUGHT  
OF THAT  
MYSELF!



MINUTES LATER, IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK'S **BOWERY**...



FINALLY, AFTER A HALF-HOUR OF TEDIOUS WALKING AND SEARCHING...

